**Surah 1 – Al-Fatihah – The Opening**

Author's note: The first Surah of the Qur'an is a prayer the Almighty has taught us to seek His guidance and support as we pledge to live our lives in accordance with the Divine Laws.

It has been termed "The Key" to the Book and in fact, that meaning is carried in the title "Al-Fatihah". Allah, in His Infinite Mercy, instantly responds in the next Surah, "Here is the Book of guidance" you requested.

A'UZUBILLAHI MIN ASHSHAYTAN IR RAJIM

I most humbly seek to shelter myself with Allah against the evil prompting of my Ego and the evil prompting from extrinsic sources.

['Satan' = The straying Ego = Selfish desire = Self-glorification = False pride = Desire that rebels against the higher controls of sound judgment and against the Permanent Moral Values = Intrinsic or extrinsic evil prompting = Negative peer pressure = Violent emotions = A rumor monger, slanderer = A hinderer of good = He who spreads corruption and disorder in the Earth = Anyone who impels others into violating the Permanent Moral Values = Bad company = Anything or Anyone that deceives or charms people into violating Divine Laws. 2:14, 4:38, 4:60, 4:83, 4:119, 5:90-91, 6:43, 6:143, 7:200, 17:26-27, 22:3-4, 25:28-29, 31:21, 67:5]

BISMILLAHIR RAHMANIR RAHIM

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Eternal Source of all Beneficence and Mercy Who embraces the entire Universe in His fold, nourishing and taking care of all things for what they are meant to be, just as a mother's womb nourishes the embryo without any returns.

['Rahm' in 'Rahman' and 'Rahim' encompasses all the meanings rendered]

1:1 All Praise is due to Allah, the Sustainer of the Worlds.

[The marvels and the profound harmony in the Universe are the living witness that its Sustainer is truly worthy of all Praise. All praiseworthy beings and things derive their magnificence from Him. Being awe-struck by any of His creation to the exclusion of His remembrance is nothing but shortsightedness. Even human achievements find their ultimate Source in Him since He it is Who is the Granter of all mental and physical resources]

1:2 The Eternal Source of all Beneficence and Mercy Who embraces the entire Universe in His fold, nourishing and taking care of all things for what they are meant to be, just as a mother's womb nourishes the embryo without any returns.

1:3 He is the Absolute Owner of the Day when all creation shall have completed their journey of existence, evolution and action to the Ultimate Just outcome. And He is the Supreme Appointer of the System of Life that mankind may live by in order to attain success in both lives - and this System will most certainly prevail in this world.

The Divine Law of Returns takes mankind to the Day of Final Judgment in His Court to account for all they did with the gift of life. This is a Day whose advent is beyond any doubt.

[3:189-190, 9:32-33, 17:111, 43:84, 82:18-19. 'Deen' = System of Life = The Ultimate Just Outcome]

1:4 (Realizing these facts), we affirm to obey Your Commands and ask You to help us as we do that.

1:5 Guide us to the Straight Path - (by providing us with the faculty to listen and not just hear, to observe and not just see, and to analyze and not just blindly follow 17:36).

1:6 The Path of those upon whom You bestowed the blissful benefits deriving from conscious obedience to Your Commands. (2:47, 31:20).

1:7 Not of those who earned the bitter consequences of rejecting Your Commands, nor of those who deviated from the road. (2:61, 7:152, 29:69, 37:69-71, 45:23, 61:5).

## Surah 2 – Al-Baqarah– The Cow

[Author's Note] This is the 2nd Surah of the Qur'an. It has 286 verses. The cow is merely one of the many quadrupeds made useful and subservient to mankind. The title of a Chapter or Surah of the Qur'an is important mainly for reference purposes. Therefore, we find most Surahs imparting to us a bouquet of concepts without getting bound to their titles. Only in the last and the 30th section of the Qur'an, which has very brief Surahs, does the title become the center of discussion through all the verses of the Surah.

Proper understanding of this most detailed Surah Baqarah will enable the reader to become familiar with the basic concepts and the true meanings of the Qur'anic terminology according to the language of its Revelation (the Quraish dialect). Therefore, my rendition of this Surah, while close to the literal translation, is also a free understanding. I have taken special care to explain every verse from within the Qur'an itself, and provided references from TASREEF (the process whereby the Qur'an lets us look at the same concepts in various ways). As we move along to the later Surahs, we will come closer and closer to the linguistic translation, once again letting the Qur'an explain itself.

About the use of parentheses: Whenever the reader finds a sentence that is not seen in the original Arabic verse, it will be representing another verse found elsewhere in the Qur'an and the proper reference will be given right there. In order to keep the flow, a conscious effort will be made to keep the parentheses [] AFTER the verse whenever appropriately possible. Historical notes, author's comments and linguistic explanations will also be given within parentheses.

BISMILLAHIR RAHMANIR RAHIM

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Eternal Source of all Beneficence and Mercy Who embraces the entire Universe in His fold, nourishing and taking care of all things for what they are meant to be, just as a mother's womb nourishes the embryo without any returns.

2:1 A.L.M. Alif. Laam. Mim. Allah, Aleem - the Knower, Latif - the Unfathomable, Majeed - the Magnificent, knows your prayer and understands your emotional and physical needs.

2:2 Here it is - the Book you asked for! There is absolutely no doubt concerning its authority and authenticity. This Divine Writ, Al-Qur'an, is a Monograph that finds its own way from your mind to your heart. And you will soon notice, as you proceed, that this Scripture leaves no lingering doubts in a sincere, seeking heart or mind. If you remember that this is a Book of Guidance, and hence, consult with it as such, the glittering reality will dawn upon you that this is a Beacon of Light! It is a Guide for all those who wish to journey through life in true honor and security.

[Recorded on parchment by honorable scribes appointed by the noble Messenger. The Almighty Himself guarantees the Truth of this Revelation, its explanation and its preservation. And you will find it free of contradictions. (4:82, 10:37, 15:9, 29:49, 32:2, 52:2-3, 75:17-19. 80:13-16). 'Al-Qur'an' = The Lecture or Monograph that finds its own way to sincere hearts, becoming 'Az-Zikr' = The Reminder]

2:3 Those who wish to journey through life in true honor and security are the ones who believe in the Law of Cause and Effect, though the stages of action and reaction might be hidden from their senses. Those who understand this simple Universal Law look for ways to establish the Divine System - a noble society in which Permanent Moral Values rule the hearts and minds of men and women. There are neither masters nor subjects in such a system, since therein prevails the Rule of Law. Inhabitants of such a society will keep open the natural and social wealth and resources that We have provided them, for the benefit of the whole society.

[2:177, 22:41, 94:77. 'Al-Ghayeb' = The Unseen: The likeness of a seed that is beneath the soil hidden from a farmer's view. Yet the farmer believes that given proper environment and care the seed will sprout]

2:4 Hence, such men and women whole-heartedly believe in what has been revealed to you (O Messenger) and in the Divine Origin of what was revealed before your times. And they have conviction in the Law of Cause and Effect, and, therefore, in the life to come.

[Similar were the blessed people who believed in and followed the previous Scriptures. Men and women of understanding use their faculty of reasoning and understand that human intellect is not boundless. It can tell mankind what is – but it cannot tell what ought to be. Furthermore, direct Revelation of Knowledge from the Creator economizes human effort and saves them time on trial and error. They also realize that life is no vain sport. It has a sublime purpose and keeps evolving like everything else in the Cosmos. So, the death of the human body is only a transition

to a higher form of life for the human personality or 'Self'. Thus, they have conviction in the Hereafter. This can be likened to the birth of a baby who leaves the mother's womb and moves on to a new and higher level of existence. Anyone failing to understand the eternity of "Self" (commonly termed 'soul'), bars himself from seeing life in its totality and, hence, toils through this life without a higher moral objective. 2:185, 6:72, 7:52-53, 7:157-158, 10:4, 21:10, 21:24, 40:11, 45:52, 67:2]

2:5 It is they who walk on a Path lighted by their Lord, and they are the ones who will truly prosper.

[The Lord's Light is this Qur'an unto which one must turn with an open mind. Those who approach it without clearing their minds of pre-conceived notions will fail to "touch" this Book. For, that frame of mind defies reason and logic. 4:88, 5:15, 23:1-11, 24:35, 31:2-5, 42:52, 56:79.]

2:6 Behold, as for those who have chosen denial in advance – it is all one to them whether you apprise them of the consequences of their deeds or do not apprise them. They will refuse to acknowledge the Truth. (2:89-109, 6:26, 27:14, 35:42-43, 36:70, 41:26, 47:32)

2:7 Allah has sealed their hearts and their hearing, and on their sight there is a veil. And theirs will be a tremendous suffering.

[Blind following and arrogance make the human perception and reasoning impermeable to the highest form of Knowledge and Wisdom. It is easy to understand how painful this fall from the high stature of human dignity would be - a tremendous suffering that is built-in as the logical consequence of this attitude. 4:88 17:46, 18:57, 45:23, 83:14]

2:8 And of mankind there are others who claim, "We believe in Allah and the Last Day", when they have indeed not attained belief. (Their actions, which speak louder than words, contradict their claim).

2:9 They would deceive Allah and the believers. But they only deceive themselves, and realize it not!

[Men and women of this psyche fall prey to the misconception that they can bypass the rock solid Divine Law of Cause and Effect. Since reason is a faculty that has to be exercised and they have forsaken it, they are little aware of what opportunity of personal development they are missing]

2:10 This negative attitude is a disease in their hearts that reinforces itself according to the Divine Law of Requital. The conflict between one's word and action amounts to self-deception that has its own dire consequences. This is because such people lie to themselves! (How can they be true to others, then?)

2:11 When it is said unto them, "Do not cause chaos and disorder in the land by violating the Revealed Moral Values," they say, "We are but reformers, setting things right!"

2:12 Oh, verily, it is they who are corruptors because they in fact do not put their intelligence to good use.

[They bring forth a common argument that they are acting in good faith and in accordance with their conscience. They do not realize that conscience is nothing but an "internalized society" and that it is only a mental reflection of the material conditions and values prevalent in a given society. Therefore, it can never be a substitute for Divine Revelation 3:20, 5:79, 9:67, 24:21]

2:13 When it is said to them, “Believe in the Revealed Moral Values as other people have come to believe”, they retort, "Shall we believe as the foolish believe?" Oh, verily, it is they who are the foolish! But they realize it not.

2:14 When meeting those who have seen the Truth, they say, “We have attained belief.” But when they go apart to their devilish comrades, they say, "Behold, we are with you - we were only mocking.”

2:15 Allah will turn their mockery upon them, leaving them to wander in their arrogant infractions, blindly stumbling to and fro.

2:16 They have bought straying at the expense of guidance. Such trade has to go bankrupt because they have set their caravan in the wrong direction. (‘Muhtadi’ = He who journeys on a lighted road).

2:17 Their example is that of a person who lights up a fire without adequate fuel. As soon as brightness surrounds them, the fuel is consumed and the Divine Law takes away their light leaving them in the dark where they cannot see. (The pursuit of instant gains only grants them a fleeting satisfaction since they have forfeited a long-term goal).

2:18 Deaf, dumb and blind of Reason! They will not return to begin their journey in the right direction (unless they use their faculties of perception and reasoning 8:22, 16:76,17:36).

2:19 Now ponder another example - that of a rainstorm from the sky with darkness, thunder and lightning. They plug their ears with their fingers for fear of death. (But this will not make the storm disappear since denial is no solution to any problems). And Allah’s Law of Recompense encompasses the deniers.

[His changeless Laws are implemented in the Universe without any exceptions whether people accept them or not. 7:183, 14:8, 29:54, 30:24, 79:36, 82:16]

2:20 The lightning almost snatches away their sight and vision. They walk a few steps, in a stop and go fashion. When darkness prevails, they stand still. It is the Law of Allah that those who defy Reason eventually lose the proper use of their perceptual and analytical senses and faculties, hearing and vision, taken away. Behold, Allah is the All-Powerful Designer of His Laws and He has Supreme Control over all things.

[2:201, 7:183, 11:15, 17:18-21, 29:54, 30:24, 42:20, 79:36, 82:16. Those who reject the Divine Messages and rely solely on their intellect, do not realize that Revelation is to the human intellect what sunlight is to the human eye. It takes them out of darkness into ever sustaining Light. 2:257]

2:21 O Mankind! Serve your Lord, Who has created you and those before you, so that you may journey through life in honor and security. (7:172).

2:22 He Who has made the earth habitable for you and the sky over it like a canopy. And brought down rain from therein so that fruits of His Bounty may spring forth for you as abundant provision. When you understand this simple fact, (insult not your intelligence and) equate not others with Allah. (The high atmosphere serves as a protecting canopy against meteorites and keeps balance in the gases and temperature as well).

2:23 (For the real skeptic We have another reason-friendly offer.) If you are still in doubt concerning that which We have revealed unto Our servant (Muhammad), call and set up (a committee, commission, organization, association of the highest order) all your helpers besides Allah, and then produce just one Surah like this, if you are men of Truth.

[Bring some chapters of comparable merit that even come close to it in magnificence, eloquence, grandeur and wisdom 10:38, 11:13, 17:88.

Allah uses for Himself the first person singular ‘I’ as well as the plural ‘We’. The Qur’an being the most eloquent Book on earth has its own unique charisma and style. A slight reflection even on a translation strikes us with the tremendous variety of its usage of semantics. ‘We’ in relation to God indicates His Supreme Royalty, whereas ‘I’ gives us some idea of how close the King of kings is to us. And, "There is none like unto Him." 112:4. Likewise the use of the masculine gender for God in all Scriptures is meant to be in conformity with our social fabric, intellect and understanding. Almost all languages in the world use the male gender when referring to a third person singular except when a specific female is being referred to.]

2:24 And if you fail to do it - and fail you will, yet remain haughty and scornful, it should be easy to think of the outcome. You will live a life unlived since that is the natural consequence of a stubborn denial of the Realities of life. Then guard yourselves against the Fire that has been readied for those who remain bent on denying the Truth, and its fuel are the masses and their stonehearted leaders alike. (This Fire is generated in and engulfs the hearts 9:110, 104:6-7).

2:25 Convey the happy news to those who have chosen to be graced with belief, and have done acts of service to humanity. For them will be a most pleasant reward. Call it Paradise in both lives. (Try to understand it in your current vocabulary). Plush Gardens with rivulets flowing underneath! When they are provided with the delicious fruit of their deeds, they will say, “This is what we were provided before.” They had tasted some of the reward in this world. For, they will be given sustenance that will recall their past. The men and women will have pure companions therein, an everlasting happy family life.

[This Paradise is not given away as charity. It has to be built in this life and then inherited. It has been described in the Qur'an allegorically and it is not confined to one particular place. It encompasses the entire Universe and is a logical consequence of living upright and contributing to the well-being of humanity. 3:132, 13:35, 14:25, 24:55, 32:17, 39:74, 47:15, 57:21, 76:5-6, 76:17.]

2:26 Behold, Allah does not shy away from citing any kind of allegory, even of a mosquito or beyond. Those who attain belief by way of reason appreciate the allegories and know that therein is contained some teaching of the Truth from their Lord. On the other hand, those who have chosen to disbelieve, try to ridicule, saying, "What could Allah mean to teach by this similitude?" Thus His Law of Guidance lets go astray many and shows the lighted Road to many. But He never lets go astray any except those who drift away from Reason. (Men of Reason know that abstract phenomena are frequently best understood in the form of examples, metaphors and allegories).

2:27 [Just as there is One Creator, likewise mankind is but one Community. This is such an indisputable Truth that all men and women will eventually take it to their hearts. 1:1, 2:213, 9:33-34, 9:111, 10:19, 13:21-25, 31:28, 83:6 114:1.]

Those who break this ratified Bond of Allah and cut asunder the unity of mankind that Allah has commanded them to uphold - into races, colors, sects and regions, and thus lay the foundation of chaos in the Earth, those will be the losers in the long run. (2:213, 10:19, 31:28).

2:28 Think! How can you disbelieve in Allah knowing that He it is Who gave you life when you were lifeless? Then He will cause you to die and bring you back to life again. And then, all of you will return unto Him. (37:58, 40:11, 44:56, 76:1).

2:29 He it is Who has created for you whatever is in the Earth – all of it. And He has applied His Design to the High Cosmos and fashioned it as seven Heavens. He is the Supreme Knower of what all things are destined to be. (11:7, 53:31, 57:1-2).

2:30 [Now is related to you the creation of Adam or mankind, in allegorical terms - when Allah decided to create humans who would be given free will and supremacy on Earth.]

Your Lord announced His Plan to the angels, the Universal Natural Laws, "Behold, I am about to place a creation on Earth that will have dominion over it."

[The angels were not even remotely aware of free will other than the Divine Will. But He had decided to provide humans with that precious gift. The free will may be likened to breathing of something into humans from the Divine Energy. The angels wondered if a clash of wills would not result in chaos and bloody disorder on Earth, while the angelic role had always been that of striving to manifest the Impeccable Glory of their Lord and absolute submission to His Commands.]

They exclaimed, "Will you place on it such creation as will cause disorder therein and shed blood! - Whereas we strive to establish Your Glory in the Universe and make manifest that You are Impeccable!" He answered, "Behold, I know that which you

know not.” (15:27, 16:49-50. Human evolution: 6:2, 7:189, 22:5, 23:12-13, 25:54, 32:7-9, 35:11, 37:11, 71:17).

2:31 And Allah endowed humanity with the capacity to attain knowledge. Then He showed the angels certain things and said to them, “Tell me if you have the capacity of learning about these, if you are truly better qualified to have supremacy in the planet Earth.

2:32 They humbly said, “Glorified are You, High Above all creation! We only know the tasks You have assigned to us. Verily, You, and only You, are all-Knowing, all-Wise.”

2:33 Then He said, “O Adam! Show them some of your capacity to attain knowledge.” And when Adam informed them of his ability to learn, He said to the angels, “Did I not tell you that I know the secrets of the Highs and the Lows? And I know that which is manifested by your efforts and the potentials that lie dormant within you, O My creation!”

2:34 And when We said to the angels, “Humble yourselves and be subservient to Adam, or mankind - they instantly complied humbling themselves, except Iblis (Satan). He refused through self-glorification, and so became a rejecter of the Divine Command.

[Thus, Allah endowed mankind with the ability to master or harness the Universal Natural Laws through science. There is, however, an internal domain He has designed within humans. Call it 'I', ‘Self’, ‘Ego’, ‘Personality’, ‘I-am', ‘Me’. This has been placed for the humans to exercise free will and achieve personal growth or self-actualization. But this ‘Self’ is vulnerable to the evil prompting of its own intrinsic selfish desire or that of extrinsic sources. In that situation the ‘Self’ rebels against the higher controls of human judgment, and more importantly, against the Revealed Moral Values. This rebellious state of the ‘Self’ has the ability to rationalize its desire and emotions through the intellect. And this rebellious state of the ‘Ego’ is Satan or Iblis. It was this Iblis that refused to humble itself to the higher human controls of judgment and Divine Commands. Incidentally, the Qur’an nowhere mentions a human ‘soul’, ‘spirit’ or 'spirituality'.]

2:35 We told the early humans - male and female - Adam and his wife, “O Mankind! Reside in this land which is Paradise and partake the fruit thereof as you please. But go not near this branching Tree of Selfishness. If you branched off into parties, sects and groups, you shall replace your Paradise with Hell.” (2:213, 10:19, 20:117-118 ‘Zulm’ = To displace something from its rightful place = Replace good with evil).

2:36 But Satan caused them both to stumble therein and impelled them out of the happy state they were in. And so We said, “Degraded you are - with wedges of discord among one another! There shall be for you on Earth your station and livelihood Earth for a while.”

[Their straying egos and selfish desires had clashed and led them into dividing among themselves for the pursuit of self-interest. The humans fell from the height of

felicity into mutual contention and rivalry. The plentiful provision of the land that used to be open for all became a matter of private individual enterprise and hoarding. They have since continued toiling and competing for sustenance.]

2:37 (The solution to this catastrophe was beyond human redress.) Then Adam received Words of Guidance from his Lord and He accepted his repentance. Behold, He is the Acceptor, the Most Merciful. (Adam = Man. His wife = Woman. She also repented and Allah treated both of them equally 7:23-24).

2:38 We said, "For now, move to a lower level of existence, out of this state of spontaneous felicity – all of you. But behold, when Guidance comes to you from Me, those who will follow My Lighted Road, there shall come upon them no fear, nor shall they have grief touch them from within."

[Note here the multiple plural 'all of you' confirming that Adam and his wife are allegorical terms for the humankind. Incidentally the word EVE is nowhere mentioned in the Qur'an, once again Adam denoting mankind.]

2:39 But those who reject Our Messages or deny them in action, such will be the rightful companions of the Fire. They will abide therein."

2:40 (One example is that of the Israelites.) O Children of Israel! Remember My Bliss that I bestowed upon you (when you were following My Commandments). Fulfill your promise unto Me and I will fulfill My promise unto you. And you shall be fearful of the consequences of violating My Commands." (3:61, 9:111).

2:41 And grace yourselves with belief in what I reveal now – confirming the Divine Origin of what you already have. Be not the first among those who will conceal the Truth therein, and trade not My Messages for petty gains. Rather, be mindful of Me.

[Petty gains = The false dogma of being the 'chosen ones' which is consistently rejected by the Qur'an. The only criterion of honor in the Sight of Allah is character. (10:69-70, 29:25, 49:13). 'Kufr' = Denial of the Truth = Concealing the Truth = Ingratitude = Preconceived rejection = Choosing to live in darkness = Hiding or covering something = Closing eyes to light. Therefore, 'Kufr' or 'Kafir' does not apply to anyone unto whom the Truth has not been presented or whom it hasn't reached yet.]

2:42 And confound not the Truth with falsehood, nor conceal the Truth while you are well aware of it. (2:159).

2:43 Strive to establish the Divine System, and to set up a Just Economic Order in society. And bow with others who bow to these Commands.

[9:119, 89:29. 'Zakat' = The Revealed Economic System where everyone works according to his capacity and is compensated according to his needs. People spend on others whatever is more than their needs. 2:219. The System of Zakat is managed by the Central Authority that ensures the development of the individuals and the society.

The 2.5 percent annual mandatory charity is a non-Qur'anic concept that trivializes the comprehensive Qur'anic System of Zakat.

Charity or 'Sadaqat' are meant only for the interim period whenever and wherever the Divinely ordained System of life is not yet in place.

For Central Authority, the Qur'an uses the terms 'Allah and Rasul'. After the exalted Rasul (Messenger), it is obligatory upon the believers to elect their leadership through a consultative process in a manner suitable for the times. (42:38). The basic difference between the Western democracy and the Islamic government is that whereas no legislation can pass contrary to the man-made constitution of a land in the former, no legislation can pass contrary to the Qur'an in the latter.]

2:44 Do you wish to preach piety and admonish the people to make room for everyone's welfare and progress in the society, while you disregard practicing what you preach? And all the while you study the Scripture! Will you not, then, use your sense?

[Using your sense will tell you that this attitude amounts to lying to one’s own self. 2:10. 'Birr' denotes the meanings rendered plus exponential growth. 2:177.]

2:45 If you truly wish to strengthen your personality and the well-being of society, then be resolute in establishing the Divinely ordained System of life. This is the hard way except for those those who are committed to that Noble Objective.

[2:153, 70:17-27, 90:11-14. You have become used to thriving on the fruit of others’ toil, such as devouring usury, and, therefore, human equity and social equality strike at your vested interests. 2:275.]

2:46 Who realize that they are destined to face their Lord’s Law of Requital and that every step of theirs takes them in the direction His Laws determine.

2:47 (Once again) O Children of Israel! Remember the Blessings I bestowed upon you and how I gave you distinction among the nations of your times when you were faithful to My Commands. (2:122).

2:48 Hence, beware of the Day when all actions will encounter Absolute Justice, and contrary to your thinking, no person will avail another in the least. And neither intercession will be accepted, nor any compensation will be received from anyone. And they will not get any help outside of their own actions. (6:165).

2:49 Also remember when We saved you from Pharaoh’s people. They persecuted you with a dreadful torment, slaying your sons and sparing your women. As a matter of state policy Pharaoh divided you, humiliating the strong and leaving alone the voiceless weak among you. That was indeed a great tribulation from your Lord (His Law of Requital). (27:34, 28:4-5, 40:25).

2:50 And recall when We parted the sea and rescued you and drowned the people of Pharaoh right before your sight.

[When you faithfully followed Moses, We rescued you through a safe passage in the Red Sea. You crossed over through the Sea of Reeds at low tide, as if it were parted. This Exodus brought you to the safety of Sinai from the persecution in Egypt. 7:138, 10:90, 20:77, 26:63, 44:24.]

2:51 (Instead of being grateful, you did a weird thing.) While We summoned Moses for forty nights to reveal Our Commandments, you took to worshiping the golden calf in his absence. You were once again hurting yourselves.

['Zulm' = Displace something from its rightful place = Relegating the Truth = Hurting someone or one's own self = Violation of human rights = Live in darkness = Oppression = Diminishing the due measure.

Wasn't the calf an object of worship of the Egyptians, your recent masters? You demonstrated that physical emancipation did not equate psychological emancipation.]

2:52 Then, even after that, We pardoned you and gave you another chance to show gratitude. (2:56).

2:53 And We gave Moses the Code of Law and the Criterion for you to clearly distinguish between right and wrong to lead you on the Lighted Road.

['Hudan' = 'Hidayah' = Guidance = Being led aright = Following a lighted road = Journey through prominent landmarks = The gift of guidance = Any sincere gift = A high rock of identification in the sea = Lighthouse.]

2:54 When Moses returned, he said to his people, "O my people! You have hurt your own 'Selves' by worshiping the calf. So, turn in repentance to your Maker and kill your rebellious mentality. This will be best for you in the Sight of your Maker." Thereupon He accepted your repentance. Verily, He is the Acceptor of repentance, the Merciful.

[7:152. Unfortunately, blindly following the account of Exodus 32:26-28, most ancient and modern commentators of the Qur'an, including Maududi of the 20th century, stumble on this verse as well. Some maintain that the Israelites in a matter of hours killed one another randomly up to 70,000 men! Others claim that only the culprits were killed! All this, because of giving literal meaning to 'Qatl' and blindly following some Bible stories. This is all the more amazing since the same verse is showing Pardon from Allah. 'Qatl' = Subdue = Bring low = Humiliate = Make humble = Killing inflated or rebellious Ego = Murder = Slaying = Fighting.]

2:55 And recall when you said, "O Moses! We will not believe in you unless we see Allah face to face!" Thereupon lightning thunder overtook you and overpowered your sight and sense.

[Your minds were still programmed with the primitive ways of the "Age of Worship" when humans could only appreciate the tangible. At that level of intellect, humans come to fear natural phenomena. Thus, when you saw the lightning thunder you almost fell dead in fright. 7:155.]

2:56 Then We revived you, and raised you from a dead to a living nation so that you might show gratitude by establishing the Divine Order.

2:57 When you mended your ways, We overshadowed you with the cool shade of Our Mercy and We bestowed upon you Our Bounties in abundance, saying, “Partake of the decent things We have provided you.” And they had done no harm unto Us - but they certainly had harmed their own ‘Selves’.

[‘Manna-was-Salwa’ = Allah’s provision of sustenance that reaches all members of the community indiscriminately. Literally it also means fowl meat and sweet fruit.]

2:58 Then We commanded you, “Enter this town and enjoy the provisions – partake as you desire. But enter the gate in heart-felt adoration saying, ‘HITTATUN’ – ‘Our Lord! Pardon our misdeeds as we mend our ways’, - and We shall forgive you your faults and amply reward the doers of good.”

[‘This town’ = Canaan = The sacred land of Palestine. For more details, see 5:21.]

2:59 But, the transgressors altered the Word they had been given, and changed their attitude of humility and perseverance. And so, Our Law sent down upon the transgressors an Heavenly Requital for their drifting away from the Commandments.

[‘Rijz’ = Weak, shaky legs = Weakening of determination and resolve = Losing individual and collective strength = Becoming lazy = Replacing action with word. ‘Fisq’ = Drifting away - from? – depending on the context. You became shaky in your resolve losing discipline and courage, hence, the Sacred Land became forbidden to you for forty years 2:61, 3:21, 5:22-26.]

2:60 (Remember the times when you were in the Sinai desert and there was shortage of water.) And Moses asked for water for his people. We said, “Smite the rock with your staff.” And there gushed out twelve springs so that each tribe found its respective source of fresh cool water. Moses said, “Enjoy Allah’s provision, but desist from creating disruption and chaos in the land for selfish gains.”

[‘Asa’ = Staff = Force = Conviction = Support. We guided him to rocks under which were hidden twelve springs of water ready to gush forth. Moses, with the strength of his conviction and with the help of his companions, unclogged those springs.]

2:61 (At one stage you demanded Moses to provide you with a great variety of edibles, although you were living in the Sinai desert.) You said, “O Moses! We are weary of the same kind of food, so ask your Lord that He brings forth for us plant food such as herbs, cucumbers, garlic, lentils and onions.” He said, “Would you exchange something superior for something inferior? (Preoccupy yourselves with petty desires instead of higher goals?) Go back in shame to Egypt and you will get what you demand.” So, humiliation and misery were stamped upon them and they had to face

the Divine Requital. That was because they kept rejecting Allah's Messages. And they persisted in opposing and even killing some Prophets against all right. They did all this, because they chose to rebel against the Divine Commands, and committed excesses against humanity.

2:62 (That was a glimpse of the past). Behold, those who attain belief in this Divine Writ and call themselves Muslims, and those who are Jews, and Christians and the Agnostics - whoever truly believes in Allah and the Last Day and benefits humanity, surely their reward is with their Lord. For them shall be no fear from without, nor shall grief touch them from within.

[Note: The author of this rendition is not aware of any instance in the Qur'an where the use of TASREEF, that is, looking at the Qur'an in its Big Picture, is more crucial than in the understanding of this verse. Some great commentators have misinterpreted this verse for missing out related verses such as these:

- Those who attain belief and call themselves Muslims and those who are Jews, and the Agnostics, and Christians - whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, and benefits humanity, for them shall be no fear from without, nor shall grief touch them from within. 5:69.

- It is inconceivable that those who deny the Truth, whether they are the People of the Book or the idolaters, could get out of error till the Clear Proof, Al-Qur'an, comes to them. 98:1-3.

- The non-Israelite Prophet liberates the People of the Book from the shackles of their man-made dogmas and brings them from darkness to Light. 7:157.

- They say, "Be Jews or Christians, then you will be rightly guided." Say, "Nay, we follow the religion of Abraham, the upright. He associated no one with the One True God." 2:135.

- O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Say, "We believe in Allah and the Revelation that has been conveyed to us, and in what was sent down to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob as well as the tribal Israelite Prophets - and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and to other Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction among them since all of them were one in Purpose and they got their Guidance from the One True God. And for Him, we are Muslims." 2:136.

- So, if they come to believe in the way you believe, they will be rightly guided. But if they turn away, they will be falling into opposition and Allah will be Sufficient for you against them. He is the Hearer, the Knower. 2:137. ('You believe' = You who acknowledge the Qur'an).

Reflecting on the above verses makes it clear that the belief in Allah and the Last Day must be in accordance and conformity with the Qur'an. Verses 2:62 and 5:69 emphasize that mere giving of a name to one's religion or creed carries no importance.

Now the SABIANS. Historically, Sabians have been small groups of people who used to merge with their respective locales and environment. When residing along with idolaters they called themselves ‘Nature-worshipers’ or ‘Star-worshipers’. Among Judeo-Christian milieu they preferred to announce themselves as ‘Followers of John the Baptist’. In the ancient Persian Empire they identified themselves as 'Sun-worshipers'. This brief analysis reveals that the term SABIANS can be best understood as the 'Agnostics' of all times.]

2:63 O Children of Israel! Recall the times when We made a firm Promise with you in the Valley of Mount Sinai, by the lofty mountain, saying, “Hold fast the Commandments We have given you, and take to your hearts what is therein, so that you may walk aright.”

2:64 Then even after that, you turned away and were it not for the graceful Law of Respite and the Mercy of Allah upon you, you would have lost the Divine Bounties right then.

2:65 And you are well aware of those of you who broke the Sabbath, whereupon We said unto them, “Be as apes despicable!”

[Then some of you transgressed again. For ecological reasons and to inculcate in your hearts the sanctity of Law We had ordained that you refrain from fishing on Saturdays and strengthen social ties rather than going after business on that day (4:154, 7:163-167, 16:124). Persistent indiscipline hurts humanity and inculcates the apish mentality. (4:47, 4:154, 5:60)]

2:66 And We made it a lesson to their times and for the future generations who would (learn from history and) choose to walk aright.

2:67 And when Moses said unto his people, “Behold, Allah Commands you to sacrifice a cow” - (So that the belief in it as a deity could be dispelled 2:54, 7:152) - They said, “Are you mocking us?” Moses said, “I seek refuge in Allah from being so ignorant.”

2:68 (Now, they started making excuses.) They said, "Ask your Sustainer on our behalf what kind of a cow it should be." Moses answered, “Allah says that she is a cow neither too old nor too young. She is between the two conditions - so do as you are commanded.”

2:69 They said, “Call for us unto your Lord that He make it clear to us of what color she is.” Moses answered, “Well, she is a yellow cow. Bright is her color, pleasing to beholders.”

2:70 They said, “Pray for us unto your Lord that He make it clear to us what exactly she is. For cows are much alike to us; and if Allah wills, we may be led aright.”

2:71 Moses answered, “He says that the cow is such that has not toiled in plowing the land nor in watering the crops and it is sound without blemish.” They said, “Now you bring the Truth.” So they sacrificed her with great reluctance. Their hearts had been drenched in cow worship (2:93, 5:101).

2:72 And remember, when you killed a man and blamed one another for this although Allah will expose what you would conceal.

2:73 And We said, “Apply this *Law to relevant cases of unsolved murder. This is how Allah gives life to the dead. (The Law that saves lives indeed gives you life 2:179). And He expounds His Messages for you to use your sense. (13:11).

[The *Mosaic Law ordains the sacrifice of a cow in some cases of murder. The elders of the town wash their hands and say: “Our hands have not shed this blood, nor have our eyes seen it.” The community is then absolved of the collective responsibility (Deuteronomy 21:1-9). In this particular instance the mystery was solved and the murderer was identified]

2:74 Then, even after that, you persisted in a state of defiance that hardened your hearts like rocks, impermeable to reason. Or even worse, for behold, there are rocks from which springs gush forth, or which split asunder releasing moisture, or fall to softness according to the Divine Laws. They are more compliant to Allah’s Laws than the hearts that defy reason. Allah is not unaware of what you do.

2:75 Even now, believers hope in all sincerity, that their compatriots (the Jewish people in town) might join their ranks. But some of them, despite hearing and comprehending the Word of Allah (in Torah) have been distorting it knowingly.

2:76 And when they meet with those who have attained belief, say, “We believe as you believe.” But when they get together with one another, they say, “Do you inform them of that which Allah has disclosed to you, so that they might use it in argument against you? And all this before your Lord! Will you then not use your intellect?”

[The information concerning the coming of a Prophet from among your brethren. (Deuteronomy 18:15-18)]

2:77 Do they not know that Allah is aware of what they conceal and what they reveal?

2:78 Among them are the illiterate who do not know their Scripture except by hearsay and, therefore, depend on conjecture.

2:79 Then, woe unto those (their scholars) who write the Scripture with their own hands and claim, “This is from Allah.” They traffic with it for petty gains. (They distort the Scripture tampering with its verses to suit their designs and exploit those who are illiterate). Woe unto them for what their hands do write, and for the earning they make thereby.”

2:80 And, yet they say, “The Fire shall not touch us but for a few numbered days.” (Because of their wishful thinking that they are the chosen ones). Say, “Have you taken any special pledge from Allah, which of course, He never breaks, or is it that you say things about Allah contrary to the august realm of knowledge?”

2:81 Nay, but whoever keeps disrupting the lives of others, and his faults upon faults surround him - such are destined for the Fire, therein to abide.

2:82 And those who choose to be graced with belief, and help others - they are destined for the Paradise, therein to abide.

2:83 (The Covenant We made with the Children of Israel was not of unconditional favors.) When We made a promise with the Children of Israel, (We said), “Serve none save Allah, and be kind to

your parents, and to relatives, and to orphans, widows, and to the needy - those left alone in the society, and those whose income has stalled for any reason. And speak to people and treat them nicely, and establish the Divine System in the society, and set up the Just Economic Order (keeping your wealth open for the benefit of all).” Then, after that, you slid back, except a few of you, and you backslide even now.

2:84 And, We made a Covenant with you saying, “Desist from feuds and mutual bloodshed, and do not expel your own people from your towns and dwellings. Then you agreed and you were witnesses thereof.

2:85 Yet you it is who subdue and slay each other, commit bloody feuds and evict expel your own people from their homes supporting one another in the act of hurting the well being of the society and sowing the seeds of discord. And if they come to you in their helpless state, you demand ransom (from these poor folk for their rehabilitation). Whereas their eviction was unlawful for you in the first place! Do you wish to accept one part of the Scripture and reject the other? And what is the reward of those who do so but disgrace in the life of this world, and on the Day of Resurrection they be turned over to the most grievous suffering! For Allah is not unaware of what you do.

2:86 Such are those who fall for instant gratification, buying the life of this world at the price of long-term gains and the Hereafter. Their punishment will not be lightened neither will they receive any help.

2:87 And, verily, We had given the Scripture to Moses and We sent other Messengers in succession after him. And We gave Jesus, son of Mary, clear evidence of the Truth and We strengthened him with Sacred Revelation. Yet is it not so that Whenever a Messenger came to you with something that was not to your liking, you became stubbornly arrogant, and some of them you called impostors, and others you killed? (Also, you have attempted to strike a deal with the Messengers in order to alter the Messages 10:15, 11:113, 17:74, 68:9).

2:88 And they say, “Our hearts are bags of knowledge.” Nay, but Allah has deprived them of His Grace for their persistent rejection of the Truth. Therefore, only a few of them will choose to be graced with belief. (2:6).

2:89 And when there comes to them the Book of Allah, confirming the authentic in what they have, they flatly deny it although before that they had been praying for a signal victory over those who denied all Divine Revelation. And whenever there came unto them something that they recognized as the Truth, they would deny it. Then, deprivation of Allah’s grace is the lot of all those who thanklessly reject His Guidance and choose to live in darkness. (‘Kufr’ includes all the meanings given in the last sentence).

2:90 Miserable indeed is for which they sell their ‘Selves’ – that they deny that which Allah has revealed. (Grudgingly, they cannot get over the fact that Allah has chosen a Messenger who is not an Israelite). And that Allah should reveal His bounty to whomever He chooses among His servants. And so (for their discriminatory attitude) they have invited Requital upon Requital. And for all those who thanklessly deny the Guidance and choose to live in darkness, is a logical consequence of suffering that brings them low.

2:91 And when it is said to them, “Be graced with belief in what Allah has revealed,” they say, “We only accept that which has been handed over to us.” And they deny that which comes after it,

though it is the Truth confirming the authentic that is with them. Say, “Why then did you oppose and slay the Prophets of Allah, if you were indeed believers (in the earlier Revelations)?”

2:92 And indeed, Moses came to you with all evidence, yet you worshiped the calf in his absence, and you did behave wrongly.

2:93 Recall again the Covenant We made with you in the Valley of the Mount Sinai, with the mountain towering over you, saying, “Hold firmly to what We have given you, and listen with your hearts!” They said, “We hear and we disobey”. The desire to worship a tangible deity was so strong in them that their hearts were infused with the love of the calf, because of their persistent failure to see the Truth. Say, “If your faith teaches you to go back to the primitive ways of worship, then you are in a pitiable state of mind - if you are at all believers.”

2:94 Say, “If the Eternal Abode with Allah is reserved only for you (2:80) and not for others of mankind (2:111), as you claim, then long for death if you are truthful.” (Why do you fear death rather than looking forward to it when you claim that you are the chosen ones of God? 5:18, 11:7, 67:2)?

2:95 But they will never long for it, for (they know) what deeds their hands have sent forth. And Allah is Aware of those who wrong their own ‘Selves’ by relegating the Truth.

2:96 and you will find them greediest of mankind for life, even greedier than the idolaters. Each one of them would like to be allowed to live a thousand years. And to live long would by no means save him from the suffering. For, Allah is Seer of what they accomplish.

2:97 (They are displeased with Gabriel for he brought Revelation to a gentile Prophet 2:90.) Say, “Who is an enemy to Gabriel! He it is who reveals this (Qur’an) to your heart by Allah’s leave – (and this Revelation) confirms the Divine Origin of the previous Scriptures. And it is a Guidance and glad tiding for those who accept it.

2:98 Who is an enemy to Allah, and His angels and His Messengers, and Gabriel and Michael! Then, behold, Allah’s Law is an enemy to such rejecters. (There is a wedge between Success and those who close their eyes to Universal Realities).

2:99 Verily, We have revealed unto you clear verses, and only those will deny them who drift away from reason.

2:100 (This reflects in their daily lives.) Is it not so that whenever they make a pledge with others, a party among them breaks it (and others feel liberated from their collective responsibility)? Nay, indeed, most of them do not believe in the Permanent Values.

2:101 And now when a Messenger has come to them from Allah confirming the Truth in what they have, a party among those who were given the Scripture before, cast the Scripture (Torah) behind their backs as though unaware (of what it says about the advent of the Messenger in Arabia (Deuteronomy 18:15-18).

2:102 (They followed conjecture in the past as well.) Some rebellious people spread a rumor in the Kingdom of Solomon. Solomon never disbelieved in the Divine Laws, but the rebellious ones did. They fabricated a story that two angels Harut and Marut had descended in Babylon and taught magic to people. That they used to warn people, “We are only a temptation, therefore be not

oblivious to the rational Divine Laws." The rumor further stated that people learned magic from these two angels how to create discord between a man and his wife. (This entire story is nothing but falsehood. Magic, amulets, ghoul, demon-possession, exorcism, witchcraft, evil eye, fortune telling, astrology, palm reading, clairvoyance, voodoo are nothing but conjecture). These things can neither harm nor benefit anyone since they are contrary to the Divine Laws in Nature (3:123-127, 6:73, 7:54, 45:22). (Superstitions can harm people by becoming self-fulfilling prophecies). And that which they try to learn only harms them and profits not. They are well aware that any person indulging in this trade (of the so-called "Occult sciences") will be a loser in the long run, and shall have no portion in the Hereafter. And surely, evil is the price for which they (magicians, diviners, clairvoyants, fortunetellers and claimants to witchcraft) sell their humanity, if they but knew better.

[*that Solomon had turned away from the Divine Truths and became devoted to magical practices and sorcery*. Solomon never disbelieved in the Divine Laws, but the rebellious ones did]

2:103 And if they had believed in the changeless Divine Laws and walked aright, the reward from Allah would be far better, if they brought their thoughts in the realm of knowledge.

2:104 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not say (to the Prophet), "Listen to us." Instead, say, "Look upon us, or, grant us attention." And always be good listeners. There is a painful consequence for the rejecters of the Divine Commands. ('Ra'ina' also has another meaning to it, i.e. "Be our shepherd." Do not be vague and speak straight to the point 4:46, 33:70).

2:105 The rejecters among the People of the Book and the idolaters do not wish to see any good thing sent to you from your Lord. But Allah showers His Grace according to His Laws (and chooses for His Revelation whom He wills 3:71, 16:30). And Allah is the Lord of Infinite Bounty.

2:106 [(Some People of the Book question why a new book was necessary. The evolution of human civilization has now come to a point where the Final Message for all mankind, can be given and preserved forever (6:116, 15:9)]. We have not abrogated the old commands without replacing them with the everlasting Commands that are either similar or better than the previous ones (5:48, 6:116, 15:9). Do you not know that Allah is the Appointer of due measure for all things?

2:107 Do you not recognize that the Dominion of the heavens and the earth belongs to Allah? (He is fully Cognizant of your physical and mental needs, and knows the timing of His Revelation). And you have no Patron or helper besides Allah. (Systems of Life designed contrary to His Laws will keep collapsing).

2:108 Do you wish to demand of your Messenger that was demanded of Moses in the past? (People asked him vain questions in minor details and then disobeyed him 5:101). But whoever changes his stand from the Light of conviction to the haziness of doubt, has already strayed away from the Even Way. ('Iman' and 'Kufr' translated according to the wider meanings and the context 5:101).

2:109 Many of the People of the Book wish to make you turn back to disbelief after you have attained belief. They do this because of their personal envy even though the Truth has become manifest to them. (Ethnic and nationalistic prejudices give rise to such feelings of envy 2:111, 5:18). Pardon them and leave them with their ways until Allah issues His Command. (5:13, 15:85,

73:10, 74:11). Verily, Allah has Power over all things and all events take place within the framework of His Laws.

2:110 Go ahead and establish the Divine System, and set up the Just Economic Order in the society. And whatever good you send forth to strengthen your 'Selves' in this manner will be stamped on your personalities and you will find it with Allah. (2:3). Behold, Allah is Seer of what you do.

2:111 And they claim, "None will enter Paradise unless he be a Jew or a Christian." This is nothing but their wishful thinking. Say, "Bring your proof if you are truthful." (2:135).

2:112 Nay, but whoever submits fully to Allah, and benefits people his reward is with his Sustainer. (7:180-181, 41:40). And there shall neither fear come upon them from without nor grief touch them from within.

2:113 And the Jews say that the Christians have no basis, and the Christians say that the Jews have no basis. Yet both read the Scripture! This is how people oblivious to true knowledge have always behaved. Allah will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection in what they differ (3:104, 11:118-119). ('Qaul' = Utterance = Thought = Tenet = Attitude).

2:114 And who can be a greater transgressor than the one who forbids access to the Centers of the Divine System? - Lest His Name be Eminent in the earth (as it is in the rest of the Universe) - And strives to ruin them! It is not meet for their human dignity that they should enter them except in awe, respect and humility. (9:17-19, 9:107). Communities that fail to heed this warning will suffer humiliation in this world and a tremendous suffering in the Hereafter. (72:18). ('Masjid' = Mosque = Centers that administer the Divine System = Place of collective prostration with mind and body = Centers that the Islamic government will establish to implement the Qur'anic Commands in the society, and thus collectively submit to Allah).

2:115 And unto Allah belong the East and the West. (He transcends all boundaries and so is the Divine System that can be established anywhere on earth). Wherever you go, whichever way you turn, there is Allah's Countenance, and you remain in His Dominion. Behold, Allah is Transcendent, Knower of every site in the Universe. (3:95).

2:116 And they say, "Allah has taken unto Himself a son." Never! He is High Above what they say. Nay, unto Him belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth. Everything is subservient to Him.

2:117 The Originator of the heavens and the earth! As soon as He decrees a thing, he says unto it, "Be" – and it is. (He originates and creates and does not procreate).

2:118 Those who do not explore the realm of knowledge say, "Why does not Allah speak to us directly, or a miracle come to us?" Even thus spoke those before them, as these speak. Their minds are alike. We have made clear Our Signs in the Universe (67:3), and in these verses, for people who wish to attain conviction.

2:119 Certainly, We have sent you (O Messenger) with the Decisive Truth, a herald of glad tiding and a Warner. (You are not required to fulfill their demands of miracles. Your job is to convey the message with reason and sublime decency 13:40). For, you will not be questioned about those who lurk before the Insurmountable Barrier. ('Jahim' = The barrier to further development of the 'Self').

2:120 And the Jews will not be pleased with you, nor will the Christians unless you follow their own creeds. Say, “Behold, Allah’s Guidance is the only True Guidance.” (This is the updated, unadulterated Message from the same Creator who revealed the previous Scriptures). And, indeed, if you followed their desires after the Knowledge that has come unto you, then no ally nor helper would you have from Allah. (7:3, 10:109, 13:37).

2:121 Those unto whom We have given the Book, who read it with the right reading (carefully study it beyond mere recitation), and then follow it as it should be followed - it is they who truly believe in it. And whoever does not believe in it this way - it is they, they who are the losers. (‘Tilawat’ = Recitation with understanding and then following it).

2:122 (The Children of Israel can easily relate to what has just been said.) O Children of Israel! Remember My Bliss with which I blessed you and how I gave you distinction over all other peoples of the time.

2:123 And guard against a Day when no person shall avail another, nor will compensation be accepted from him, nor will mediation profit anyone, nor will anyone will receive outside help. (6:165).

2:124 And remember when his Lord tried Abraham to uphold the Commands and he fulfilled them. (He took up the formidable challenge of a mighty priesthood, idolatry and a tyrannical autocracy in Mesopotamia). Then his Lord said, “Behold, I have appointed you an exemplary leader of mankind.” He asked, “And of my generations as well?” He replied, “My Promise does not embrace those who harm others, and thus, harm themselves.” (Being the offspring of a great man shall avail none).

2:125 And when We appointed the House (at Makkah) a focal point for mankind, and a safe sanctuary - We said, [“This House is for all mankind to rally around, to shed their disputes and to become one community (3:96, 5:97, 14:35, 22:25] If you wish to stand at the honored station of Abraham, follow his example.” We commissioned Abraham and his son, Ishmael to build this House saying, “Keep it clean from man-made dogmas for those who come and go and those who are called upon extra duty in establishing the Divine System. And to make it a training center for those who bow down and humble themselves before the Divine Commands (2:143, 3:96, 5:97, 14:35, 22:25).

[Ismail = Ishmael a.s. resided permanently in Makkah, while his father kept traveling between Hagar (Haajirah) in Makkah and Sarah in Canaan (Palestine). Ishmael married a woman from the Qahtani Tribe of Jurham and became the ancestor of MUSTA RIBAH (Arabianized Tribes or the Arabs). So the Arabs are, interestingly, descendants of a Hebrew father, Ishmael a.s. and a Qahtani Jurham mother. They had twelve sons in their long and happy married life. The Qahtanis are still abundantly found in the Arabian Peninsula. They were a wandering tribe in Southern Arabia who had settled in Makkah before Ishmael, because of the (contrary to popular legend) pre-existing Well of Zam-Zam.

The “Wilderness of Beer-Sheba” of Genesis 21:14, embraces the Southern Palestine and Hijaz. Therefore there is no contradiction between the Bible and the Qur’an concerning where Ishmael and his mother Hagar had settled after moving from Canaan.

Now, here is a glimpse of some interesting history about Hagar and Ishmael a.s. as found in the Bible.

Genesis 17:20 - As for Ishmael, I have heard you (O Abraham); behold, I will bless him and make him fruitful and multiply him exceedingly; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

Genesis 21:17 - And God heard the voice of the lad (Ishmael); and the angel of God called to Hagar from the heavens, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not; for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him fast with your hand; for I will make him a great nation.

Genesis 21:20 - And God was with the lad, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran (Faran, Makkah).

P.S. This history also explains why the Qur'an repeats that the Arabs had not received any Scripture before the Qur'an. The Arabs, of course, became a community long after Ishmael died]

2:126 Abraham prayed, " My Lord! Make this land peaceful and secure, and provide its people with fruits of Your Blessings. Provide for those who believe in Allah and in the Last Day." He answered, "I will also provide for him who thanklessly rejects the blessed guidance and let him enjoy life for a while. (But since he coveted instant gratification only and disregarded the long term), then, after that I will commit him to the suffering of Fire." And what a miserable destination it is after wandering through the journey of life! (14:37, 17:18-20, 22:25, 95:3).

2:127 As Abraham and Ishmael were raising the foundations of the House (in Makkah) they were praying earnestly, "Our Lord! Accept from us our service. For, verily, You are the Hearer, the Knower."

2:128 "Our Lord! Make us true Muslims, submissive unto You, and of our descendants a community true Muslims, submissive to You. And show us how we can serve You best and grant Your attention to us. Verily, You, only You, are the Acceptor, the Merciful." (2:186).

2:129 "Our Lord! And raise among them a Messenger from among them who shall convey unto them Your Messages - and through these shall teach them the Permanent Code of Values and Wisdom, and thus, enable them to grow in goodness. You, only You, are Almighty, the Wise." (2:231, 17:39, 33:34, 57:25).

2:130 And who forsakes the Creed of Abraham but he who befools himself? Indeed, We raised him high in this world. And, behold, in the Hereafter he will be among those who have perfected their personalities. (16:120-122).

2:131 When his Lord said unto him, "Surrender!" He said without hesitation, "I have surrendered unto the Lord of the Worlds."

2:132 Abraham held fast to his pledge and enjoined upon his sons to do the same, and so did Jacob, saying, "O' My children! Behold, Allah has chosen for you the True System of Life. Therefore, do not let death overtake you except that you are truly Muslims."

2:133 Were you present when death came to Jacob, when he said unto his children, "Whom will You serve after me?" They replied, "We shall serve your God, the God of your fathers, Abraham, and Ishmael, and Isaac - the One God - And unto Him we have surrendered, and for Him we are Muslims."

2:134 They were a community who have passed on. Theirs is that which they earned, and yours is that which you earn. And you will not be answerable for what they used to do.

2:135 And they say, “Be Jews or Christians, then you will be rightly guided.” Say, “Nay, we follow the Creed of Abraham, the upright. He turned away from all that is false, and ascribed divinity to none but the One True God.” (And he was neither a Jew nor a Christian 3:67).

2:136 (O Believers!) say, “We believe in Allah and the Revelation that has been conveyed to us, and in that which was revealed to Abraham, and Ishmael, and Isaac, and Jacob as well as their descendant Prophets (the tribal Israelite Prophets, known as the Patriarchs), and in that which was given to Moses and Jesus and to the other prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them (in that all of them were one in Purpose and they got their guidance from the One True God). And for Him, we are Muslims.”

2:137 So, if they come to believe like you believe, then they are rightly guided. But if they turn away, then they are in schism and opposition and Allah will suffice you against them. For, He is the Hearer, the Knower.

2:138 The Hue of Allah! (Say that our life takes it color from Allah). And who can give a better hue to life than Allah? (We do our best to adopt the Divine Attributes in our human capacity such as: mercy, forgiveness, creativity, peace, care, truthfulness, justice, clemency, appreciation, trustworthiness, responsibility, kindness, compassion, independence, guidance, patience, giving, unity, strength, affection, courage, patience etc). “And He it is Whom we serve.”

[People can assess their level of personal growth or self-actualization by this criterion, seeing to what extent they have been able to adopt these attributes. 83:28]

2:139 Say (to the Jews and the Christians), “Do you argue with us about God, when He is our Lord and your Lord? We are responsible for our deeds and you are responsible for your deeds. And we are sincere in our Faith in Him.

[Our attitudes are, however, different. For example, some of you think that God is only interested in the Children of Israel, while we believe that He is the Lord of all humanity (1:1-2, 114:1). And some of you think that God begot a son and sacrificed him to absolve you of your sins. We believe in the Law of Requital, that is, “As you sow, so shall you reap”. And there is no such thing as the Original sin. Every human being is accountable for his own doings (2:123)]

2:140 Do you still insist that Abraham, and Ishmael, and Isaac, and Jacob as well as the Tribal Israelite Prophets were Jews or Christians? Say, “Do you know better than Allah? And who could be more unjust than he who conceals a testimony that he has received from Allah? (You have received the testimony in your Scriptures). And Allah is not unaware of what you do, reveal or conceal.

2:141 Nevertheless, these are a people who have passed on. They are responsible for their doings and you are responsible for your doings. (Keep this Law in mind). You will not even be asked of what they used to do.

2:142 The people of little understanding will say, “What has turned them from the Center of Devotion (Jerusalem) which people formerly observed?  Say, “The East and the West belong to Allah.” He shows the Straight Path to him who wills to be shown it.”

[Why have the Muslims chosen Makkah as their Center of Devotion?" They know that Jerusalem has been specific to the Children of Israel. Allah is the Sustainer of all Humanity (114:1) and the Qur'an invites all Humanity to become One Community (2:213, 10:19, 57:25). And Allah is not a tribal God; He transcends all temporal and spatial boundaries. His Message is not confined to a group of people (4:170, 6:91, 7:158, 12:104, 21:107, 22:49, 34:28, 38:87). Say, "The East and the West belong to Allah." He guides people to the Straight Path as He Wills.]

2:143 And, thus it is: We have appointed you a middle and just Community that you would be watchers over all mankind and that the Messenger be a witness against you. (It will be your sacred duty to ensure that no people on earth will oppress others). So far as the transformation of the Center of devotion is concerned, it has distinguished between those who succumb to traditional and nationalistic preferences from those who see all mankind as one nation and follow the Messenger. And the Messenger is fulfilling Allah's Command for the Unity of Mankind. In fact it was a hard test except for those who have attained Allah's Guidance. Allah never lets your Faith go in vain. Verily, Allah is Compassionate and Merciful to all mankind.

2:144 We know your eagerness O Messenger, to fulfill Our Command and to establish Ka'bah as the Center of Devotion for all humanity. Soon, you will happily administer the Sacred Masjid that is dear to you for its Sublime objective. Wherever each of you is, keep your focus on it as a symbol of pure Monotheism, and of your Ideological uniformity. Behold, those who have been given the Scripture know that your call is the Truth from their Lord. (They remain bent upon denial for blind following, prejudice and arrogance). Allah is not unaware of what they do.

2:145 And even if you were to place all evidence before those who previously received the Scripture, they will not accept your Center of Devotion. Nor can you be a follower of their Center, and they do not follow the centers of others. [Each faction of people holds sacred places and temples of their choice. They would not accept the Divinely ordained Center of Devotion until the evolution of human civilization brings them to the right conclusion by the process of elimination (4:170, 6:84-91)] Your job, in the meantime, is to remain sincerely committed to the Divine Plan and not be swayed by people's desires. If you heeded them after the right knowledge has come to you, you will be of those who deviate from justice.

2:146 Those to whom We gave the Scripture before, recognize this Revelation as they recognize their own children but a group among them knowingly conceals the Truth.

2:147 It is the Truth from your Lord, so be not you of those who waver.

2:148 Each person pursues his goal of interest. But you shall race toward doing good to the community. (2:177). Every "Self" has the innate capability of self-actualization (83:26). Regardless of the directions you humans choose, Allah will ultimately bring you all together under One Ideology, and all of you together again on the Day of Resurrection. This Proclamation comes from Allah who has Power and Control over all things in Time and Space. (57:20, 83:26, 102:1-2).

2:149 And wherever you proceed, whatever you are occupied with, remain attentive to the Divine Ideology symbolized by the Sacred Masjid. Behold, it is the Truth from your Lord. And Allah is not unaware of what you do with your life.

2:150 Again, regardless of where you are geographically and whichever way you are proceeding, you must keep in mind the Sacred Masjid as a symbol of the Divine Ideology, that is, unity of mankind. This will help the communities of believers around the world to coordinate their affairs.

The opponents will, then, have no argument against you that you are not one in Purpose, except those who are bent on relegating the Ideals. Then, fear them not, but fear Me! So that I may perfect My Bliss upon you and that you may be guided to the Ultimate Success (5:3).

2:151 Hence, We have sent unto you a Messenger from among your own who conveys to you Our Revelations and teaches you how to grow in goodness by helping people. And he empowers you with the Book of Allah, and the Wisdom therein, the knowledge you did not have before.

2:152 Therefore, raise My Name and I shall raise your name! And be grateful to Me, and deny Me not by being practically ungrateful. (2:186, 2:220, 2:177, 15:49, 21:10, 21:24, 23:70, 38:24, 43:44).

2:153 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Seek help in steadfastness and in diligent following of the Divine Commands. Surely, Allah is with those who are steadfast in ease as well as in adversity.

2:154 (Establishment of the Divine Value System will meet with harsh opposition from people and nations with vested interests.) Say not of those who are slain in the Cause of Allah, “They are dead.” Nay, they are alive, but you perceive it not. (While death is a prolonged state of sleep until the Resurrection Day, in their case emergent evolution of the “Self” takes place and they are instantly in a state of Bliss of the Hereafter, and they get honorable provision for mind and body from their Sustainer 3:169).

2:155 (Adversity is a great barometer of the strength of personality.) Fear, hunger, loss of wealth, loss of life and devastation of crops are examples of adversities that let you test your mettle. Our Law will let you try yourselves with such tribulations. Hence, give glad tidings to those who remain proactively steadfast.

2:156 When a calamity befalls them, they do not waver. Rather, they say, "We are for Allah, dedicated to His Cause and every step of ours will advance in the Direction shown by Him." (9:159).

2:157 It is they whom their Lord supports and blesses with His Grace. And it is they, they who are guided to the most desirable destination. (33:43, 33:56).

2:158 [Allah has appointed the Sacred Masjid as the Center of Devotion for all humanity. The establishment of a Universal Divine Order will mandate extensive consultation among nations. Therefore, annual Hajj meetings and ad hoc Umrah conferences have been prescribed for humanity (2:148, 2:196, 3:96, 22:27-28, 40:19)]

There is no blame for a pilgrim of the House or a visitor in walking between the Mount Safa and the Mount Marwa. (They are historical relics of Allah since Abraham and Ishmael worked there to build the Ka’bah. Rites and rituals in themselves are not the end. They must be treated only as devotional means to a higher goal 22:28). Therefore, do every good deed possible that will benefit the community. Allah is Appreciative and fully rewards such people. He is all Knowing.

2:159 (Allah has defined the objectives of the Pilgrimage to the Sacred Masjid in this Book 22:28.) Those who conceal the evidence and the Guidance which We have revealed and made clear for people in the Book – such are rejected by Allah and His righteous servants. (They conceal the sublime Purpose by making these assemblies mere rituals and thus deprive humanity of the blessings of the Divine System).

2:160 Except such of them as repent, and amend, and declare the Truth they had been hiding. They are the ones whose repentance I accept. And I am the Acceptor, the Merciful.

2:161 Behold, those who reject the Truth and die as rejecters, for them is the rejection of Allah and the Universal Laws and of the human society combined. (Allah's Rule in the Universe is the Rule of Law. Hence, anyone who lives contrary to the changeless Divine Laws only harms himself).

2:162 Since the 'Self' survives after physical death, such men and women logically keep suffering relentlessly.

2:163 And (remember that) your God is One God. There is no god but He, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness. (And it is His Law alone that is operative in the entire Universe).

2:164 (Allah does not propose blind faith at all.) Behold, there are ample Signs for you in the Universe. In the creation of the heavens and the earth, the alternation of night and day, the ships that roam the ocean for the benefit of mankind, the water that Allah sends down from the heights, thereby giving life to the land after it had been lifeless - and the variety of creatures that are dispersed on the earth, the currents of winds and the clouds they carry at various heights, are clear Signs for those who exercise their intellect. (The Universe is too organized to be the result of an accident 6:73).

2:165 Yet, among mankind are those who consider idols and saints to possess the Attributes of Power and Control like Allah does, and revere them as only God should be revered. But the true believers revere Allah more than all else. (7:3). Oh, that those who relegate the Truth could but see, as see they will when they are made to suffer! They will realize that all Power belongs to Allah alone and that Allah is Awesome in punishing. (Reverence or love of Allah, in the Qur'an, invariably denotes obeying His Commands).

2:166 (On the Day) those who were followed will disown those who followed them. And as soon as they see the doom, their mutual relations will collapse with them.

2:167 Those who followed will say, "If a return were possible for us, we would disown them as they have disowned us." Thus it is: Allah will show their own doings as remorse for them, and they will not emerge from this Fire of Regret.

2:168 O' Mankind! (In matters of eating and drinking, follow that the Qur'an is telling you, and not what people say). Eat of what is on earth, Lawful, clean, wholesome, decent and pleasing, and of your liking, and let not your selfish desire lead your reason and judgment, step by step into error. Behold, your rebellious desire (Satan) is an enemy that lays bare even your hidden imperfections. ('Tayyab' = Clean, decent, wholesome, pleasing, aesthetically good, of your choice).

2:169 This Satan teaches you to disrupt the lives of others - lewd behavior and stinginess – and that you say about Allah that which is outside the realm of your knowledge.

[('Fahasha' = Lewdness = Niggardliness to the point of shame). And the Satans in the society teach people that accumulation of wealth is perfectly permissible. Nay, spend on Allah's servants all that is beyond your needs (2:21-22, 2:219, 41:10)]

2:170 And when it is said unto them, "Follow that which Allah has revealed", they say, " Nay, we follow that wherein we found our fathers.” "What! Even though their fathers used no reason at all and journeyed through life without any light?” (5:104, 10:78, 11:62, 11:87, 21:53, 34:43, 38:7, 43:23. ‘Hudan’ = Prominent and bright = Lighted = Visibly ahead = Leading = Guidance).

2:171 [The attitude of blind following drags people to subhuman levels (Like a herd of sheep) they understand nothing but only hear calls that are meaningless. (7:179)] The likeness of calling on those who reject the evident Truth is as the likeness of one who calls unto that which hears nothing but a shout and cry. Deaf, dumb, blind of reason -Hence, they fail to attain sense.

2:172 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Partake of the clean, decent and aesthetically good things of your liking that We have provided for all of you. (2:168). And render thanks unto Allah if it is indeed He whom you obey.

2:173 He has forbidden you only carrion (any animal that dies by itself), and blood, and swine flesh, and anything --- (not just meat) --- that has been dedicated to any other than Allah (be it any person, an ancestor, a saint, an idol or a tomb 5:3). But, he who is compelled out of necessity, neither craving nor indulging in excess, it is not a dragging violation for him. Behold, Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

2:174 Verily, those who (start making their own lists of the lawful and the unlawful try to) conceal the Book of Allah - They purchase a small gain with it. They eat into their bellies nothing but Fire. Allah will not even address them on the Day of Resurrection, nor will make them grow to further evolution of the ‘Self’. For them will be a painful doom (since they infringed upon the Divine Authority of Law-giving).

2:175 They are the ones who are buying error in exchange for Guidance, and buying torment in exchange for security. How constant are they in their strife to reach the Fire!

2:176 This is so, because (they ‘disable’ the Qur’an although) Allah has revealed the Book in Absolute Truth. Behold, those who find excuses for disagreement in the Book, do so for their sectarian affiliations and thus create discord. (4:82, 25:30).

2:177 (One obvious result of sectarianism is their pre-occupation with rituals. This is because each sect leaves the Book aside and makes its own set of dogmas they call religion). No wonder, they forget that) Righteousness and exponential development of personality is not in that you turn your faces to the East and the West. But righteous is he who has conviction in Allah and the Last Day and the Angels and the Book and the Prophets. And he gives his wealth that he loves in reverence of Him, to:

- Family and relatives
- Orphans
- Widows
- Those left helpless in the society
- Those whose hard-earned income fails to meet their basic needs
- Those whose running businesses have stalled
- The ones who have lost their jobs
- Whose life has stalled for any reason
- The disabled
- The needy wayfarer, son of the street, the homeless, the one who travels to you for assistance

- Those who ask for help, and
- Those whose necks are burdened with any kind of bondage, oppression, crushing debts and extreme hardship of labor.

(‘Yatim’, ‘Miskin’, ‘Ibnis Sabeel’, ‘Fir-Riqab’ carry all the meanings given above).

They (the truly righteous) strive to establish the Divine System, and set up the Just Economic Order. They are true to their promises whenever they make a promise. They remain steadfast in physical or emotional distress and in times of peril. It is they that have proved to be practically true, and it is they, they that indeed journey through life in Blissful honor and security. (2:4, 3:91).

2:178 (Security of life is the cornerstone of a civilized society.) O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! QISAAS (The Law of Just Recompense) has been prescribed for you in dealing with murder. If a free person has committed murder, that free person will face the Law. If a slave has committed murder, that slave will face the Law. And if a woman has committed murder, that woman will face the Law. (The status of the victim or that of the offender, whether they are free men and women or those in bondage, will have no bearing before the Justice System). If the victim’s kin pardons the guilty, he must be appreciative and pay an equitable compensation to the kin in handsome gratitude. This pardon is a concession from your Lord and Mercy. Whoever, after this, trespasses this Law will have a painful doom (through the court of law and in the Court of Allah). (For full aspects please see 4:92-93, 5:32, 17:33, 42:40).

2:179 And there is life for you in the Law of Just Recompense, O People of understanding, that you may journey through life in security! (Hence, Qisaas is a deterring safeguard for the community and not revenge).

2:180 (Regarding proper dispensation of property) it is ordained for you that before death approaches any of you, and he is leaving behind much wealth – that he prepares a will for parents and family in a decent manner. This is a binding duty on all those who wish to walk aright. (Any oversight or leftover from the will shall be distributed according to portions described in 4:11).

2:181 If anyone tampers with a will after hearing it, the guilt of altering befalls those responsible for such altering. (A will shall be heard and prepared in the presence of two trustworthy witnesses 5:106). Behold, Allah is Hearer, Knower.

2:182 (The one who makes a will, the testator, is likely to make errors of omission or commission.) So, if anyone, who has heard the will, fears from a testator some bias or diminishing of a due right, and then makes proper adjustments to bring about an amicable and acceptable settlement between the concerned parties, he will not be harming his own character. Verily, Allah is Absolver of imperfections, Merciful. (‘Ithm’ = A dragging violation that harms the human personality or potential).

2:183 (Creating an ideal civilized society requires self-discipline, self-control and restraint among the individuals.) O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Abstinence is prescribed for you as it was prescribed to nations before you so that you benefit from this training, and get empowered to walk aright.

(I have translated “Saum” as ‘Abstinence’ since it involves more than ‘fasting’, such as abstaining from anger, backbiting, lying and intimate husband-wife relationship. Moreover, ‘Saum’ literally means self-restraint).

2:184 Just a certain number of days. But, if any of you is sick or is traveling, the number of days should be made up later. For those who can go through Abstinence only with hardship, there is compensation, the feeding of an indigent. Any additional charity will mean additional reward. However, if you knew better, the training course of Abstinence is good for you.

2:185 The month of Ramadhan has been chosen for your collective training because this is the month in which Revelation of the Qur’an began (with the most revolutionary and Benevolent Message ever). It is Guidance for mankind, and it clearly explains the ‘why’ of every Rule. And it is the Criterion of right and wrong.

[The concepts therein are not defunct theories and empty hypotheses. It has a Permanent Universal Code of Values, Laws, Rules and Principles. The yearly training of Abstinence in this month connects the Message with action]

So, whoever is at home during this month should participate in the program. Whoever of you is sick or on a journey, let him do Abstinence later. Allah desires for you ease. He desires not hardship for you - and that you should complete the period. (Do not treat this program as just a ritual). The objective of this training is to establish the Greatness of Allah on earth for having placed you on a well-lighted road, and then being practically grateful by sharing His Bounties with others.

[The Qur’an does not forbid menstruating women from rituals of worship. However, a menstruating or a pregnant woman would come under the category of the sick, if she feels unwell. The only thing forbidden by the Qur’an during the periods is intimate relationship of the husband and wife 2:222. ‘Shukr’ does not mean just verbal thanks. It involves showing gratitude in action]

2:186 (This training program has nothing to do with asceticism or self-denial in any way. The mystics think that enduring hardships and denying themselves the basic needs will bring them close to God). And if My servants ask you concerning Me, behold, I am indeed near. I respond to the call of whoever calls, whenever he calls unto Me. So let them hear My Call and let them trust in Me, that they may be led aright.

[The verses of My Book have answers to all their questions, and that is the way to approach Me. 3:194, 7:56, 8:24, 32:15-16, 40:60, 42:26]

2:187 (The Abstinence is only for the daytime. Eating, drinking, and going to your wives is not forbidden during the night). It is Lawful to go to your wives on the night of the Abstinence. They are your garments and you are their garments - close to each other, source of mutual comfort, complementing each other, trustworthy and keepers of privacy, reason for décor, and redressers of faults. (‘Libas’ embraces all the meanings given). Allah turns to you in Kindness and dispels and pardons your unworthy fears of disobedience at night. Freeing yourselves of misconceptions, keep seeking in life that Allah has decreed to be available for you. So, eat and drink until the white line of dawn becomes distinct for you from the black line of night. Then you shall be in Abstinence until night begins to fall. During this training program, some of you will be called on deputation in local Centers of the Divine Order. (This will be an assignment from the State. During that special duty you will learn, consult and plan the governmental and social affairs). So you will have to

divert your attention from personal matters, even from intimately touching your wives. These are the limits imposed by Allah, so overstep them not. Thus it is that Allah explains His Messages to mankind that they may walk aright.

2:188 (When you abstain from the Permissible during the annual training period, you empower yourselves to easily refrain from the forbidden.) So, devour not the wealth and property of one another unjustly, nor bribe the officials or the judges to deprive others of their possessions. Know that this kind of behavior drags down the individual and collective potential of the society.

2:189 (The exhortation of righteousness must not be considered confined to the Month of Ramadan.) They ask you (O the Messenger) about the phases of the Moon. Say, “They should serve as signs to mark certain timings for people. And for Hajj.” (Misconceptions and superstitions about the sun and the moon have nothing to do with righteousness). You attain righteousness by upholding the Commands in a straightforward manner. Exponential development of humanity cannot be achieved by entering the System through the back door of ritualism – just as you must not enter houses through the back doors (2:177). (Since there is no such thing as a part-time Muslim) you shall be mindful of Allah all the time in order to reap a rich harvest. (2:138, 2:208).

2:190 [When you are a full-time Muslim, you will be trying to establish the Qur’anic Order in the society that ensures human equality and the unity of mankind. The obvious consequence will be bitter opposition from the elite, the powerful, the oppressors, the priesthood and the exploiters of the masses]

> Fight in the Cause of Allah those who wage war against you, but do not commit aggression. Behold, Allah loves not aggressors. (22:39).

2:191 (But if they keep on fighting), subdue them wherever you find them. And drive them out from where they have driven you out. For, oppression, cruelty and persecution are even more severely destructive than the killing in battle. And fight not against them near the Sacred House that is a Symbol of unified submission of all mankind to their Creator, unless they attack you therein. But if they attack you there, then fight against them. Such is the reward of those who refuse to acknowledge and then violate the sanctity of the Sanctuary of Peace for all humanity. (The Sacred Masjid in Makkah must be a safe Sanctuary and a source of peace and security for all mankind 2:144-148, 3:96, 5:2, 5:97, 9:18, 22:25-28, 40:19, 48:25. 'Qatl' = Kill = Bring low = Subdue = Fight = Attack = Slay).

2:192 But if they stop, then, behold! Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

2:193 And fight the aggressors until persecution is eliminated and there remains no compulsion or coercion in religion, the freedom that Allah has ordained (2:256). Anyone accepting the DEEN of Allah must do so freely and for His sake alone. (‘Lillah’ = For Allah’s sake alone). And if the aggressors desist, then let there be no hostility except against those who displace peace with warfare. ('Zulm' = Displace something from its rightful place = Replace good with evil = Oppression = Relegation of the Truth = Violation of human rights = Doing wrong to oneself or others).

2:194 [Temporary cessation of hostilities provides a cooling off period and it can avert war. There should be at least four months upon which mankind should agree as peacetime 9:36]

A violation of sanctity will activate the Law of Just Recompense. So, one who attacks you (during the Sacred Months), attack him to an extent no more that he has aggressed against you. And be mindful of Allah and know that Allah is on the side of those who walk aright.

[History and Tafsirs report the four Sacred Months as the first, the seventh, the eleventh and the twelfth month of the Lunar Calendar. However, the Qur'an being the Ultimate Authority specifies them differently. The four Sacred Months are consecutive, beginning with Zil-Hajjah, the 12th Lunar Month (9:1-6)]

2:195 (It is impossible for a greedy, stingy, niggardly person to grow in goodness. Greed, stinginess and hoarding harm the individual and the society). Spend your wealth in the Cause of Allah, and let not your own hands throw you into destruction. Rather, be consistent in benefiting your fellow human beings. Behold, Allah loves the benefactors of humanity.

2:196 And complete the Hajj or Umrah for Allah. If it so happens that you planned but could not execute your plan to visit, send in gifts that the congregation would utilize. Do not consider that by doing so you have relieved yourself of the burden of the duty from your head. Be with them at heart until all reach the destination. If someone is sick or has other compelling burdens on the head denying him sending the gifts, then Abstinence for a few days at convenience, or an act of charity or fulfilling someone's need shall be in order. If a person is present in the congregation but cannot afford gift sharing, one should exercise Abstinence for a total number of ten days, three days there and seven days after coming home. This is for him whose folk are not present in the Sacred Masjid (Makkah in the wider sense). This will help him feel no less devoted than others. Follow the Guidance of Allah. Remember the higher goal and be mindful of Allah. And know that Allah's Law of Requital is strict in pursuing and grasping.

[Hajj is the annual Pilgrimage in a specified time while Umrah is a visit to the Sacred Masjid of Makkah any time during the year. Both have sublime objectives as the Qur'an explains, although Muslims have converted them into mere rituals like in the Days of Ignorance. The idea is to arrange regular and intermittent international conferences in Makkah. Delegates from all over the world would get together there and devise ways to make the world a better place to live]

2:197 The Pilgrimage shall take place in the months made well known to mankind. Arrange it in a manner that people may get together from around the world and confer. Whoever participates in Pilgrimage shall refrain from intimate husband-wife relationship, misconduct and arguments throughout Hajj so that mutual consultation could take place in an amicable environment. Allah will acknowledge what you accomplish for the good of mankind. And do make provision for the entire number of days so that you don't have to ask people for help, rather be able to help them. But remember that the most important and best provision is your good conduct. Be mindful of Me, O Men and women of understanding! [The Central Authority, any time in the four Sacred Months shall decide upon and announce the exact timing of Hajj. (2:194, 9:1-6). The current practice of "performing" the ritualistic pilgrimage only in Zilhajjah, the $12^{th}$ lunar month, finds no authority in the Qur'an]

2:198 Allah is fully Cognizant of your economic needs. And the Pilgrimage is not a gathering of people who have renounced the world. Therefore, there is nothing wrong in seeking Allah's bounty by conducting business. Returning from the field of Arafat, remember Allah at the sacred relic of Muzdalifa. Remember Him as He has guided you, before you were of the straying.

2:199. You have seen that Pilgrimage is not a ritual. It is intended to be a platform for achieving harmony among mankind through interactive dialogue and consultation. When the pilgrimage is over, return to your homes as simple ordinary people without pomp and pride, and stick to the program agreed upon there. Allah, through His Infinite Mercy, will make your efforts fruitful and procure security and protection for mankind through this program, like a helmet protects the head. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

2:200. When you have returned to your homes after completing the acts of devotion, the greatest change that should come in you is that you live your life according to the Commands of Allah rather than what you were doing before, i.e., following the ways of your forefathers. People, who look for short-term gains in blind following, forfeit the long term Eternal success.

2:201 And among men and women are those who forsake not the Hereafter for this world, and forsake not this life for the Hereafter. They are the ones who insure themselves against Fire. They say, “Our Lord! Give to us in this world what is good, and in the Hereafter what is good, and guard us from the doom of fire.”

2:202 For those who seek good in both lives, is a decent portion they have earned. Allah's Law is swift at reckoning.

2:203 The appointed days of Pilgrimage and Umrah are meant to remind one another of Allah’s Commands. If a participant hastens his departure by a couple of days or delays it, there is no detriment in either case for those who walk aright. Walk aright and remember that all of you will be gathered before Him.

2:204 Now there is a kind of man whose views on the life of the world dazzle you, and he even swears by God to what is in his heart. Moreover, he is exceedingly skillful in argument. (But he disregards the Eternal Values and the Hereafter).

2:205 If such people attain political power they create corruption in the earth. Their rule results in destruction of the produce of land and labor and the damage done by them affects generations. Allah loves not corruption and mischief.

2:206 When he is advised to be mindful of Allah's Laws, his false pride plunges him further down in inhumanity. Hell will settle his account, a miserable abode.

2:207 But there is also a kind of man who would willingly sell his “Self” for Allah’s Approval. (He dedicates his whole life, and even is ready to sacrifice it in the Cause of Allah). And Allah is Compassionate to His servants.

2:208 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Come, all of you, into submission to Him. Enter the System of Islam fully and collectively. Do not follow the footsteps of the Satan, your rebellious desire. Selfish desire that rebels against the Divine Values is your most ardent enemy. (Desire or emotion leads our actions while the intellect rationalizes them. Only the Divine Values given the Qur’an can empower our higher control of the intellect).

2:209 (There will be attempts at beclouding the Profound Message of the Qur’an as happened in the case of earlier Scriptures. Certain man-made books would be created and promoted as if they were equivalent to or superseded the Qur’an). If you falter or backslide after these Clear Verses

have been conveyed to you, know that Allah is Almighty, Wise. (You will then suffer the consequences in both lives for disregarding His Wisdom).

2:210 The opponents of the Clear Verses will make up weird stories, such that Allah would descend from one heaven to the other heaven and then into dark dense clouds, accompanied by winged angels. And then He would decree all matters. Nay! All matters of guidance have been expounded in this Book. Allah is Omnipresent and all actions return to Allah for judgment.

2:211 O Messenger! Ask the Children of Israel how many clear Revelations We gave them. Whoever alters the blessed Message of Allah after it has come to him must know that Allah's Requital is Strong in grasping.

2:212 Beautified seems the life of this world to the rejecters, and they ridicule the believers who uphold Permanent Values and look beyond instant gains. Those who live an upright life will be higher in degrees on the Day of Resurrection. Allah provides without stint to His creation according to His Law that does not discriminate between people. He is the Sustainer of all humanity (114:1).

2:213 Mankind were one community. (Nature's provision was abundant and open for all (2:36). Then Satan, their selfish desire, divided them 10:19) Allah sent Prophets as heralds of good news and as Warners. He sent down with them the Scripture with the Truth to judge among people in their differences. After the Prophet passed on, people started differing in the Scripture that was given to them with clear verses. And they did so in stubborn rivalry. Allah by His Will keeps the sincere believers guided in Truth concerning whatever differences arise among them. Allah guides people according to His Laws. (Using your faculties of listening, observing and reasoning will help you achieve guidance, while selfishness, arrogance and blind following will lead people astray 2:170, 6:56, 40:35, 41:17).

2:214 Do you expect to achieve Paradise here and there without being tested as the previous generations were tested? They had to go through hardship and adversity such that they were shaken up. (Unity of mankind will not be easy to attain. The differences of race, ethnicity, creed, color, lineage, wealth and nationalism would be the barriers to surmount). The hardships in the way of this Benevolent Revolution have tasked the hearts and minds of Messengers and their believing companions till they said, "When will come Allah's help?" But, once this Revolution gets going, Allah's help is near.

2:215. A crucial step toward the establishment of this Unified Order will be the equitable distribution of wealth. People ask you, O Messenger! "What should we spend in the Cause of Allah?" Say, "Although welfare of the entire society would remain the ultimate objective, begin this goodness with your parents, family and relatives, orphans, widows, and those who are left helpless, those whose hard earned income is insufficient to meet their basic needs, those whose businesses have stalled, and those who have lost their jobs, also the needy wayfarer, the homeless son of the street, and the one who has come to your town in a destitute condition." And whatever good you do, Allah is Aware of it.

2:216 When establishing the Divine Order, you will meet aggression from those who wish to maintain the status quo for their vested interests. Therefore, fighting in the Cause of Allah is ordained for you, even though you dislike it. It may happen that you hate a thing that is good for you, and it may happen that you love a thing that is bad for you. Allah knows and you know not.

2:217 During active warfare, mankind should agree upon one month of peacetime. This would serve as a cooling off period. They ask you about the Sacred Months and fighting therein. Say, " Fighting in the Sacred Months is a grave offense (2:194). However, repelling from the Path of Allah, rejecting His Command and the sanctity of the Sacred Masjid, and evicting its people, are greater offenses in the Sight of Allah. Persecution is a greater crime than killing." They will not cease from fighting against you till they revert you from your religion, if they can. Those among you who revert from their religion, and die as disbelievers, have nullified their works in this life and their rewards in the Hereafter. These are the companions of Fire; they will abide therein.

2:218 Those who attain to belief and those who emigrate in the Cause of Allah and struggle to establish the Divine Value System, can rightfully hope for the Grace of Allah. Indeed, Allah is Absolver of imperfections, Merciful.

2:219 They ask you (O Messenger), concerning alcohol, intoxicants, gambling, and easy money. Say, "There is great loss for men and women in these things and a little momentary gain. Their damage far outweighs their benefit. They drag down individual and collective potentials of people." And they ask you what they should spend on others. Tell them, "All that is beyond your needs." Thus Allah makes plain to you His Revelations, that you may reflect and understand the Wisdom behind each Command.

2:220 Reflect that Allah's Commands can help you here and in the Hereafter. And they ask you about orphans, and those left helpless. Say, "Taking care of the development of their human potential, fulfilling their needs, and rearing them with good training and education is best. If they live with you, they are your brothers and sisters." Allah knows the person who is corrupt from the person who is equitable. Allah has bestowed upon you Guidance without which you would have carried the burdens of Ignorance. He wishes for you ease and not hardship (2:185). The Almighty, Wise Allah uses His Authority in Infinite Wisdom.

2:221 (Family is the unit of any good society. Uniformity of Ideology between the husband and the wife is important to ensure a wholesome family life). Do not marry women who associate others with Allah, till they believe. Even if such women seem attractive to you, marrying a believing woman who toils in labor and might not seem as attractive, is better for you. Nor shall you give your daughters in marriage to men who associate others with Allah, till they believe. A believing man is better than an idolater, even if you like him. Clash of basic value systems creates a fiery atmosphere in the family and it carries on to the Lasting Abode. Allah, by His Leave, invites you to Paradise and protection against your imperfections. (A happy family life is a life of paradise). He expounds His Revelations for all humanity to ponder.

2:222 They ask you about women's courses. Say, "It is an inconvenient condition. So keep away from intimacy with them during their courses. Once they are clear past it, you may approach your wives for intimate relations in the manner designed by Allah. Allah loves those who make mends and keep their minds and conduct clean."

2:223 Remember, that women in the society are the guardians of your future generations, just as a garden keeps the seeds and turns them into flowering plants. So, whenever you meet with women socially, treat them with respect, keeping the aforementioned principle in mind. This conduct will go a along way to insure the betterment of the future generations. Send forth good today for tomorrow. Be mindful of Allah's Laws and know that you will, one day face Him. O Messenger! Give good news to the believers.

2:224 Let not your senseless oaths in the name of Allah deter you from doing good to others, from being mindful of Divine Laws, and from making peace between people. Allah is Hearer, Knower.

2:225 Allah will not task you for your senseless swearing. He holds you responsible for your intentional doings. Allah is Forgiving, Clement. (Therefore, a marriage will not be dissolved for senseless utterances of the husband or the wife).

2:226 Men who take an oath that they will not approach their wives shall have four months of grace. And if they go back on their oath during these four months, behold, Allah is Forgiving, Merciful. (They must rethink their decision during this grace period and circumstances might change. Similar rules apply for women, since they have rights and obligations as men have, and since no man is permitted to forcibly keep his wife in wedlock against her will as stated later in the Book (2:228, 4:19, 4:21, 4:34, 7:189).

2:227 If they decide upon divorce let them remember that Allah is Hearer, Knower. (They must bear in mind that since marriage is a Solemn Covenant 4:21, divorce can take place only in accordance with this Book of Law).

2:228 After divorce, women shall wait three menstruations before remarriage. There is no waiting period for a woman who is divorced before intimate relations with her husband (33:49). And it is three months if they do not habitually menstruate (65:4). They shall not conceal pregnancy if they believe in Allah and in the Hereafter. In case of pregnancy, their waiting period shall be until delivery (65:4). And during this period their husbands would do better to take them back if both of them desire reconciliation. The husband and the wife have the right to reconcile during this waiting period of the wife. Women have rights similar to those of men in mutual kindness. Men, however, do not have a waiting period for remarriage for obvious physiological reasons. That is where men are on a platform different from them. (2:228-234, 4:3, 4:19, 4:35, 4:128, 33:49, 58:1, 65:1-4).

2:229 In a given couple's lifetime, a divorce is permissible twice. (The whole period of divorce i.e. three menstruations / three months, or until delivery can be taken back twice). Then the divorced woman must be retained in honor or released in kindness. She shall be allowed to live in the same home amicably, or leave it amicably. At or after divorce, it is not lawful for you to take back anything of what you have ever given to her. However, if both of you fear that you might (in waves of emotion) transgress the bounds set by Allah, there shall be no blame on either of you if the wife willingly gives back whatever she chooses. These are the Limits set by Allah; transgress them not. Whoever transgresses the bounds set by Allah, such are the wrongdoers.

2:230 If a man divorces his wife on a third different time during their marital life, it shall be unlawful for him to remarry her. It may so happen that the woman marries another man, and those two do not get along, and the other husband divorces her. In that case, there is nothing wrong if both (the previous couple) decide to come together again, if they consider that they will be able to observe the Limits set by Allah. These Limits have been made clear to enable people to make use of the Divine gift of knowledge.

2:231 When you have divorced women, and they have completed their waiting period, then retain them in kindness or release them in kindness. You shall allow them to live in the same home amicably, or let them leave amicably. Do not force them to stay against their will, as revenge. Anyone who does this wrongs his own "Self". Do not make the Revelations of Allah a laughing stock. Remember Allah's Blessings upon you and the Book and Wisdom He has sent down to you

in order to enlighten you. Be mindful of Allah's Commands and know that Allah is Aware of all things.

2:232 And when you have divorced women, and they have completed their waiting period, people in the society shall not place difficulties if both of them wish to remarry each other in kindness. And they shall not place difficulties if the woman decides to marry a different husband with their mutual agreement. This instruction is for all among you who believe in Allah and the Last Day. Following the Commands helps you develop your personality and stay clear of vice. Allah knows, you know not.

2:233 If the (divorced) mothers wish to nurse their infants, the father shall provide for the mother's sustenance and clothing equitably up to two years of nursing. No human being shall be burdened with more than he or she is well able to bear. No mother shall be made to suffer because of her child, nor shall a father be made to suffer because of his child. If the father dies, his heir will assume these responsibilities. If both parents decide with mutual consent, there shall be nothing wrong in entrusting your children to foster-mothers.. There shall be nothing wrong if you ensure, in a fair manner, the safety of the child you are handing over. Be mindful of Allah's Laws and know that Allah is Seer of all that you do.

2:234 Those among you who die and leave wives behind, they shall wait four months and ten days before they remarry. Once they fulfill their interim, the society commits nothing wrong by letting them make amicable decisions about their future including remarriage. And Allah is fully Cognizant of all your actions.

2:235 you do nothing wrong in announcing your engagement to women or keep it to yourselves. Allah knows that the community will think about getting them married. But, never make a secret pledge or contract with them. Speak with them honorably and in recognized words. Do not tie the wedding knot nor sign the martial contract until the waiting period has ended. Know that Allah understands human psyche, and that which is in your hearts. Take heed of Him and know that Allah is Forgiving, Clement. He does not wish to impose hardship on you. His Laws protect your society from harm by absolving your imperfections. (Allah, the Clement never gets enraged and His Rule is the Rule of Law).

2:236 And, there is no blame on you if you nullify the marriage before you have touched the women with whom you have signed the marital contract, and before you have appointed the marital gift. This would be an unexpected situation involving emotional trauma. Therefore, show compassion by giving her as generous a gift as you can afford. This would be an act of equity and it is a binding duty on all those who wish to be counted among the benefactors of humanity.

2:237. And if unexpected circumstances lead you to divorce women before you have touched them, but after the marital gift has been fixed, give them half the amount unless they volunteer to forgo it. If the move for divorce originates purely from you, let her have the whole portion. If you men forgo it, it is closer to righteousness. O People! Never forget kindness among yourselves. This Command is from Allah Whose Law of Requital ever monitors your actions and the motives behind them.

2:238 While describing some important marital Laws, it is reiterated that, your Central Duty remains the guarding of the System in which individuals and families can develop their potentials to the maximum. Stay alert in the obedience to Allah.

2:239 Whether fear threatens you from without, or you are strolling, riding, relaxing in peace, rising, sitting, or recumbent (3:190, 4:103), keep in mind the Laws of Allah as He has taught you the Right and Wrong which you knew not (3:3).

2:240 Men must testify in a written, legal will that, after their death, their widows will receive one year's maintenance without their being obliged to leave the house. But, if they leave on their own accord, there is nothing wrong in letting them do whatever they wish to do with themselves in a lawful manner. Allah, the Almighty, the Wise grants this permission.

2:241 The widowed and divorced women must be provided for in kindness and equity. (65:6-7). This is a duty for those who wish to walk aright.

2:242 Thus, Allah makes His Revelations clear for you. Now, it is up to you to use your intellect.

2:243 The Ideal Society that you establish shall have sound socio-economic fabric and Rule of Law. That would enable you to thwart aggression from any quarters. You won't then, behave cowardly like those who were thousands in numbers, but when challenged by the enemy, they ran in droves leaving their homes behind. They feared death. Then they realized that the Divine Law of mortality is inescapable, hence the fear of death is vain. Soon, they stood up on their feet and defeated the enemy. They lived again. Allah's Guidance is a Bounty to mankind but the majority of the people do not realize and appreciate this fact.

2:244 We had told them, "Fight in the Cause of Allah, and know that Allah is Hearer, Knower." Fight in self-defense, and against oppression and aggression (2:190-194).

2:245 Who comes forward and gives a beautiful loan to Allah that He shall multiply it many times? The Divine Order in the society pays you handsome dividends. Add to this, the tremendous Reward in the Hereafter. The wealth of nations and individuals is not exempt from the Laws of Allah. Every step of the way you are returning to Him.

2:246 Sustained commitment to the Divine Order with your lives and wealth is no easy undertaking. After the times of Moses, some leaders of the Israelites promised their Prophet (Samuel), "If you appoint a king for us, we will fight in the Cause of Allah." The Prophet said, "Is it your intention to refrain from fighting if it was decreed to you?" They said' "Why should we not fight in the Cause of Allah when we have been driven out of our homes with our children?" Yet when fighting was ordained for them, they turned away all but a few. Allah is Aware of the wrongdoers.

2:247. Their Prophet said, "Allah has appointed Talut (Saul) as your king." They objected, "How can he have kingship over us when we are more worthy of kingship than he; he is not even rich?" The Prophet said, "Allah has chosen him over you, and has blessed him with wisdom and stature. Allah bestows His kingship according to His Laws. He is Infinite, Knowing."

2:248. Their Prophet (Samuel) said, "The sign of his kingdom is that the Ark of the Covenant will be restored to you, reassuring you from your Lord, and the relics left by the house of Moses and the house of Aaron and preserved by natural laws of archaeology. This will be a convincing sign for the believers among you."

2:249. The Commander Saul then marched along with his soldiers to face the armies of Jaloot (Goliath). They came upon a rivulet on their way. Saul, in order to create discipline among his soldiers and to test their resolve commanded them to refrain from drinking that water, save a sip

out of the hand. But except for a few they drank it. Their behavior was hardly strange when they crossed the rivulet. They complained, "This day we cannot cope with Goliath and his armies." But those who were resolute and were convinced that they were marching forward in the Cause of Allah, said, “How often a small force has overwhelmed a big army since it is the Law of Allah that He is with those who are proactively steadfast.”

2:250 Thus praying to their Lord in full conviction in the Law of proactive steadfastness, they advanced toward the invading armies of Goliath.

2:251 And, they routed the much bigger force by the Law of Allah, as David, who was one of the officers of Saul, slew the mighty commander, Goliath. Then Allah honored David with a powerful kingdom, along with wisdom and sound judgment, and commissioned him for the special Office of Knowledge. We have decreed that those who spend their youth in righteousness, i.e., benefiting humanity, shall be granted knowledge and wisdom (12:22, 28:14). The annihilation of the mighty armies of Goliath bears a historical lesson for mankind that if Balance in Nature were not one of the Laws, tyrants would ransack the earth and its inhabitants unopposed. But, oppression brings revolution and eventually, the oppressed overthrow the oppressors (22:39). Allah is Limitless in His Bounties to the Worlds.

2:252 These are the Verses of Allah that We recite to you in Absolute, Guarded Truth. And (O Muhammad!) You are among Our Messengers.

2:253 (All Messengers were one in Purpose). We have caused some of them to excel others. (They were assigned different strategies suitable to their times, locations and people. So they worked at diverse platforms and) Allah communicated to all of them in various ways. Jesus son of Mary was one of those Messengers to whom We gave clear signs of the Truth and We helped him with the Sacred Revelation. If Allah had created human beings like programmed robots, lacking free will, they wouldn't have differed and wouldn’t fight among themselves in matters of belief. But, Allah planned that men and women be endowed with the ability to make choices, and that compulsion in matters of faith would never been ordained (2:256). Allah makes His Laws in the World of Command as He Wills, and then He implements them in the World of Creation (the Universe) and never changes His Laws (7:54, 17:77, 33:62).

2:254 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Spend of Our Provision on fellow human beings, and for the betterment of the society. Do that before the day comes when no bargaining, friendship or intercession shall be of any avail. Those who reject such sensible admonition, do grave injustice to themselves.

2:255 These directions, tidings and warnings come from Allah, the One True God. There is no god but He, the Living, the Originator of life, the Self-Subsisting Sustainer of all creation. Neither slumber, nor sleep overtakes Him. All that exists in the Highs and the Lows, in the Heavens and the Earth, belongs to Him alone. Who can intercede in His Court, except as a witness of Law? His Knowledge transcends time and space. No one can encompass a trace of His Knowledge but through His Laws. The Throne of His Supreme Control extends over the Highs and the Lows. No fatigue touches Him as He benevolently guards His Dominion and creation. He is the Glorious, the Supreme.

2:256 (Although this Message has been sent down by the Almighty), there is absolutely no compulsion or coercion in religion. This Rule shall have no exception because Right has been made distinct from Wrong (3:4). Whoever rejects false gods such as the priesthood, and attains

conviction in the Word of Allah, has grasped the Unbreakable Support. This assurance comes from Allah, the Hearer the Knower.

2:257. Allah becomes the Guarding Friend of those who, after due reflection, have chosen to believe in His Word (12:108). He brings them out of darkness into Light (through the Qur'an). Those who deny the Divine System of Life, have devilish human "authorities" as patrons to lead them from Light into darkness. Such people have chosen Fire to be their eternal companion.

2:258 Think of the one who adamantly argued with Abraham about his Lord because Allah had given him power (Nimrod Shaddad, the King of Babylon who used to proclaim divinity). Abraham said to him, "My Lord is He Who gives life and causes death." He answered, "I give life and cause death." (Being a tyrant king he could reverse or impose death penalty upon his subjects). Abraham said, "Allah makes the sun rise from the East; make it rise from the West." Thereupon the rejecter of the Truth remained dumbfounded. And Allah does not guide people who displace reality with falsehood.

2:259. (Later on in history, came up another king in the dynasty of Nimrods, his name, Nebuchadnezzar (630-562 B.C.). He invaded Jerusalem, oppressed Israelites and enslaved them. One hundred years of tribulation passed before King Cyrus of Persia liberated them and reinstated them back in Jerusalem. This history bears a lesson for posterity). The similitude of this history is that someone passes by the ruins of a town and wonders if that town could ever come back to life again, and Allah causes him to die for a hundred years and then revives him. He thinks it was only a matter of a day or a part of it. He even finds his food, drink, and donkey standing beside him. Allah creates you in the wombs of your mothers, in bone and flesh. And when the matter became clear to him, he said, "I know now that Allah is Able to do all things."

2:260. Abraham wanted to understand the Law of Revival of nations. Allah asked him if he believed that it were possible. Abraham said he believed but that he wanted a practical example to educate his heart and mind. Allah told him to take four birds and train them in a kind manner, and then to leave them far apart on each hilltop. And then call them; they will come in haste. (At one call of Abraham, those birds came flying back to him. This is how mankind can be brought to the Word of Allah with decent training, giving them a new life). Know that this Wisdom comes to you from Allah, the Almighty, the Wise.

2:261 (In training their peoples, all Messengers of Allah advised them that) spending their wealth in the Cause of Allah is like sowing a seed that brings numerous shoots; each shoot with a hundred grains. This is how Allah's Law of Requital rewards men and women. Allah is Infinite, All-Knowing.

2:262. Those who spend their wealth in the Cause of Allah, must remember that they have not obliged any persons. Therefore they do not afflict them with reminders of their generosity (17:26, 30:38). Their reward is with their Lord. (The society will return their generosity in this life as well). There will be no fear for them from without, nor grief will touch them from within.

2:263. Kind words and respecting people's honor is better than charity coupled with injury. Allah, the Rich, the Clement, provides everyone without return or obligation.

2:264. O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Cancel not your charity by reminders of your generosity or by injuring the self-respect of the recipients; like those who spend their wealth for show-off. This kind of behavior contradicts the true belief in Allah and His Law of Recompense. Charity has been ordained to help individuals and not to hurt them (93:10), and Allah has promised

you manifold reward. But, a seed won't grow on a dusty rock, upon which rain falls and washes it clean. Even Allah won't guide those who deny such simple realities.

2:265. On the other hand, there are people who keep their wealth open for the society in sincere submission to Allah, not for show off, and not for putting anyone under obligation. They have joined hands with Allah in Purpose and have strengthened their "Self" (13:33). They have achieved self-actualization and made themselves truly worthy of immortality (20:76). Remember, that a "Self" that has not been developed by giving to community in wealth or labor, merely survives (14:17, 43:77, 69:27). Immortality is not a spontaneous gift from Allah; men and women are candidates for it (91:9-10). Such people are creating the Paradise of their own making that is ever-blooming; rain or shine. This glad tiding is relayed to you from Allah. Who can be a better Watcher and Guarantor of explaining the intricacies of your psyche and actions than the One who created you?

2:266. Would any of you wish that he had a beautiful, bountiful garden of dates and vineyards with rivulets flowing underneath it, but while age catches up on him and he has feeble offspring, a fiery tornado suddenly strikes and consumes it? This is how Allah wants you to reflect upon the Long Term. Your contribution to the society ensures you the Garden which neither a tornado, nor a hurricane dare take away from you (15:48).

2:267. O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Spend on others the good things you have honorably earned with hard work, whether it is from the product of industry or from the produce of the earth. Do not give away something that you won't like to receive except with closed eyes. Know that Allah, the Rich, Owner of Praise, provides you indiscriminately and without return.

2:268. Satan, your selfish desire, scares you with poverty; that if you spent on others, you might become destitute. It teaches you stinginess to the extent of shame. Allah, the All-Embracing, All-Knowing promises you the protection of Forgiveness from Himself, and abundant Bounty. (And, In the Divine Order, the society would return to you more than you spend on it).

2:269. He bestows wisdom according to His Laws (12:22, 28:14). And whoever is granted wisdom has indeed been granted a great wealth. And only people of understanding remain mindful of what they learn. (Using their perceptual and conceptual faculties can help the humans attain wisdom 17:36).

2:270 Whatever you spend on others or whatever pledge you make, Allah knows it. Those who do wrong by withholding charity shall have none to help them.

2:271 If you disclose your charities, it is well, but if you give in secret to the needy, it will be better for you. This kind of giving has the power of erasing the imprints of your ill deeds on your "Self". This Law has been decreed by Allah Who knows the interrelations of all your actions within and without your personality.

2:272 Your responsibility (O Messenger!) is only to show them the Right Way (and not to make them walk it). He has established Rules for attaining Guidance. (O People!) Whatever good you give benefits your own “Self” when you spend for the sake of Allah. Any charity you give will be repaid to you, without the least injustice.

2:273 And give to the needy who are suffering in the Cause of Allah and cannot emigrate and those who are unable to go about the earth in search of livelihood. One, who is unaware of their condition, might think they are free from want, because they abstain from begging. But you can

recognize them by the marks on their faces because they do not ask people insistently. Whatever good thing you spend on them, Allah is Aware of it.

2:274 Those who spend their wealth on the needy, by night and by day, secretly or publicly, have their reward with their Sustainer. They shall have nothing to fear or regret.

2:275 On the other hand are those who eat usury. In greed of money, they run around like someone who has been bitten by a snake. They claim that trade is like usury. This is not so. Trade is the return on labor that is permissible (53:39), while usury is the return on money. That is why Allah, in His Infinite Wisdom, has permitted trade and forbidden usury. One to whom the clear Admonition has come from his Sustainer, must abstain from taking usury forthwith. What he has taken in the past, he may keep and his judgment rests with Allah. (It is better for him to return the interest he has earned if possible, but the law shall not force him to do so). As for him who returns to usury, such are the rightful companions of the Fire to abide therein.

2:276 Allah blights usury and blesses charitable deeds with prosperity. Allah does not love those who defy His Laws and drag down the potential of the human society.

(Mankind will eventually realize that the interest based economic system will have to be replaced with an equitable System. Allah’s Laws of Economic Dynamics erase usury and nurture welfare).

2:277 Those who believe in Allah’s Laws, do works beneficial to the society, strive to establish the Divine Order and the Equitable Economic System of Zakat, have their reward with their Lord. They will have nothing to fear and no reason to be despondent. (Zakat, where everyone spends on others more than he needs 2:219, and the government is responsible for setting up this System).

2:278 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be mindful of the Divine Laws and give up what remains of your demand for usury, if you are really believers.

2:279 And if you do it not, then know that you are at war with Allah and His Messenger. But, if you mend your ways, simply take back your capital sums. Inflict not injustice and you will not incur injustice.

2:280 If a debtor is in difficult circumstances, let there be postponement to a time of ease. And if you give up the loan entirely as charity, it is better for you if you did but know.

2:281 And be mindful of the Day when you will be returned to Allah and every "Self" will be paid what it has earned, and they will not be wronged.

2:282 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When you transact a loan for any period, you shall write it down. An impartial scribe shall do the writing. No scribe shall decline to perform this duty, and write as Allah has taught him. The debtor, or in case he or she is incompetent, his representative shall dictate the document honestly and be mindful of his Lord, and diminish not the amount. There shall be two men among you to witness the transaction. If two men are not available, let there be one man and two women as witnesses. All witnesses should be such that their testimony is acceptable to all. The second woman will not be a witness in the court of law. She is there only to remind the first woman if she forgets. It is the obligation of the witnesses to testify when called upon to do so. Do not tire of writing the details, no matter how long, including the time of repayment. This is equitable in the Sight of Allah, assures better witnessing, and eliminates any doubts you may have. When it is actual merchandise that you transfer among

yourselves from hand to hand, there is nothing wrong for you if you write it not, but have it witnessed. The scribe and the witnesses must be held harmless for their services. If you harm them, it would be wickedness on your part. If you follow Allah's Commands He will increase you in knowledge. These are the Injunctions of Allah Who is the Knower of all things; intentions, events and actions.

2:283 If you are traveling and a scribe is not available, a collateral of some value may serve the purpose, or a bond shall be posted to guarantee repayment. If one is trusted in this manner, he shall return the collateral or the bond when due, and be mindful of Allah, his Lord. Do not withhold any testimony by concealing what you have witnessed. Anyone who withholds a testimony is noxious to his own sensitivity. Allah is Aware of all your actions.

2:284 To Allah belong all things in the heavens and all things in the earth. Whether you reveal or conceal your intentions and actions, Allah will bring you to account for it. He has appointed Laws of forgiveness and retribution. Allah has Power over all things and events and He has appointed due measure for everything.

2:285 The Messenger has full Conviction in what is revealed unto him from his Lord and so do the believers. Each one has full conviction in Allah, His angels, His Scriptures and His messengers. They say, “We make no distinction between any of His messengers” (since they were one in Purpose). And they say, “We hear and we obey, so grant us the protection of forgiveness, our Lord. We journey through life on Your Way.”

2:286 Allah tasks not and expects not from anyone more than his capacity. Any challenges that come your way, afford you a chance to expand your “Self”. For the “Self” is what it earns and against it is only what it deserves. Pray, “Our Lord! Take us not to task if we forget or miss the mark! Our Lord! Do not place a burden on us as you did place on those before us. Our Lord! Impose not on us what we have not the strength to bear! Pardon us, absolve us, and bestow Grace on us, You are our Supreme Master, so help us prevail over those who reject the Truth.”

## Chapter 3 – Ale ‘Imran – The Family of Imran

[Author's note] The honored Messengers of Allah, that is, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad were descendants of the Patriarch, Abraham. Prophet Jacob, the grandson of Abraham was also called Israel. Jews are known as Israelites in reference to Jacob. ‘Imran (Amram) is the name of the father of Moses and Aaron, and also of a branch among Israelites. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was born in the family of ‘Imran.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

3:1 A.L.M. Allah Aleem, the Knower Whose Knowledge transcends Time and Space.

3:2 Allah, there is no god but He, the Living, the Self-Subsistent Sustainer of the Universe proclaims that:

3:3 He it is Who has sent down this Book to you (O Messenger) in Absolute Truth, confirming the authentic in what He has revealed before. He is the One who sent down the Torah and the Gospel.

3:4 He has sent down guidance for mankind before, and now He has sent the Final Criterion between the right and the wrong. Those who reject the Revelations of Allah, theirs will be strict retribution. Allah Almighty's Law of Requital carries all things and actions to their destination.

3:5 Nothing in the Earth and in the Heaven is hidden from Allah.

3:6 He it is Who shapes you in the wombs according to His Laws. There is no god but He. He is the Almighty, the Wise. (He uses his Power with wisdom and His Rule is the Rule of Law).

3:7 (The Book He has sent down bears an important Principle.) He it is Who has revealed to you (O Prophet) the Scripture. In it some verses are Literal, while some verses are Allegorical. The verses that pertain to Permanent Values have been presented literally. These verses, MUHKAMAT, are the Essence of the Divine Law. On the other hand, abstract phenomena, historical events, and the World of the Unseen are described in similes, metaphors and allegories for your understanding (MUTASHABIHAT). But those who are given to crookedness in their hearts pursue the allegories and try to give them literal meanings, thus creating dissension. None knows their final meaning (of such as the Essence of God, His Throne, His Book of Decree, the Eternity) but Allah. Those who are well founded in knowledge understand why the allegories have been used and they keep drawing lessons from them (74:31). They proclaim the belief that the entire Book is from their Lord. As the human knowledge evolves, many of the other allegories will unfold their literal meaning (41:53). But only the men and women of understanding will bear this fact in mind. (Each of the verses in the Qur'an is MUHKAM, Absolute Truth and you can understand which ones are to be taken literally and which ones are to be taken allegorically, by the context 11:1, 47:20. And each verse in the Book complements the other 39:23).

3:8 They say, "Our Lord! Let not our hearts waver, now that you have guided us, and bestow upon us Mercy from Your Presence. You, only You are the Giver of Gifts."

3:9 "Our Lord! You will surely gather all mankind together on a Day about the advent of which there is no doubt. Allah never fails in His Promise."

3:10. Those who reject Divine Guidance, neither their wealth nor their children will avail them against Allah's Law of Requital. They will be fuel for the Fire.

3:11 Like Pharaoh's people and the ones before them, these people reject Our Revelations, and so Allah will seize them for their trailing behind in humanity. Allah's Law of Requital is strong in pursuing and grasping.

3:12 (O Messenger) Say to the rejecters, "Soon you shall be overcome and then will be gathered together to Hell, a miserable bed to lie on."

3:13 (Only recently at Badr), there was a Sign for you in the two armies that met in combat. One was fighting in the Cause of Allah, the other denying Him. With their own eyes the two armies saw each other as twice their number. (The believers in their motivation saw the manifold enemy just twice their own numbers, while the deniers saw the smaller opponents twice the size they actually were). But Allah strengthens people with His support according to His Laws. (Allah helps those who help themselves). This must be a lesson for people of vision for all times.

3:14 Beautiful for mankind is love of the joys that come from women and children, and heaps of gold and silver, and branded horses, and cattle and well-tilled land. That is comfort of the life of the

world. Allah! With Him is a more excellent abode. (Believers in the Divine Laws see this comfort as the means to a higher Goal --- Service --- Self-actualization --- Paradise).

3:15 (O Messenger) Say, “Shall I inform you of something better than these, with which those who walk aright will be rewarded by their Lord? Gardens with flowing streams beneath, where they will live forever with spouses of spotless character and the Blissful Approval of Allah. Allah is Seer of His servants.”

3:16 Those who say, “Our Lord! We have Conviction in You and Your Laws. Protect us from trailing behind in honor and save us from the punishment of Fire.”

3:17 They are proactively steadfast, truthful in word and action, ever submitting to the Commandments, keeping their wealth open for the society, and guarding themselves early against any forthcoming challenge.

3:18 Allah Himself witnesses that there is no god but He and so do the Universal Physical Laws, and men and women of Science who research in the right direction (21:22). There is no god but He, the Almighty, the Wise.

3:19 Indeed the System of Life approved by Allah is Al-Islam (Submission to His Will). People of the Scripture differ for self-interest and envy, after the Knowledge has come to them. One who rejects Allah's Revelations will find that His Law of Requital is swift in reckoning.

3:20 If they argue with you (O Messenger), tell them, “I have submitted to Allah; I and those who follow me.” Say to the People of the Scripture, and to those who claim no scripture, “Would you submit?” If they submit, then they have been guided but if they turn away, then your duty is only to convey the Message. Allah is Seer of His servants.

3:21. Those who reject the Message of Allah, and wrongfully kill the prophets or their Mission by mixing Truth with falsehood, and kill the advocates of justice in the society, promise them grievous retribution.

3:22 They are the people whose doings shall be nullified in this world and in the Hereafter, and they will have no helpers at all.

3:23 Have you noted those who were given guidance through the previous Scriptures? When they are invited to uphold this Book of Allah, to judge their disputes and apply it in their lives, a party among them declines and turns away.

3:24 This is because they say that the Fire will not touch them but only for a few days. See, how that which they used to invent has deceived them in their own religion.

3:25. How will they feel on the Day when We will gather them? The Day about the coming of which there is no doubt. And every person will be paid in full what he or she has earned. No injustice will be done to anyone.

3:26 Say, “O Allah! Owner of all Dominion! You give power to nations according to Your Laws and You strip off power from nations according to Your Laws. You have established Rules for attaining honor and facing humiliation. All good emanates from Your Hand. You are all-Powerful and you

have appointed due measure for all things in the Universe. Therefore Your Rule is the Rule of Law."

3:27 "We witness Your Laws in action throughout the Universe. You merge the night into the day and merge the day into the night. You bring forth the living from the dead and bring forth the dead from the living, and Your Laws sustain all creation indiscriminately."

3:28 (Those who reject the Laws of such an Omnipotent Creator, will not support the Divine Ideology). Believers should not expect them to be their supporters in the establishment of the Divine System instead of their fellow believers. If a believer did that, he would have nothing to do with (the Cause of) Allah. Exempted are those who are forced to do this to avoid persecution. Allah warns you of His Law of Requital, and to Allah is the Journeying.

3:29 Say, "Whether you hide your strategy or reveal it, Allah is fully Aware thereof." And He knows all things and events in the heavens and all things and events in the earth. Allah is all-Powerful and He has endowed everything with the potential to become what it is meant to be.

3:30 On the Day of Reckoning every "Self" will confront all its doings, good and evil. Every "Self" would wish there might be a long distance between it and that evil. Allah cautions you in advance, for He is Compassionate to His servants.

3:31 Say (O Messenger), "If you love Allah, follow me; Allah will love you and grant you the protection of forgiveness. He will save you from trailing behind in humanity and in the community of nations. And Allah is Forgiving, Merciful."

3:32 Say (O Messenger), "Obey Allah and the Messenger (as he conveys to you His Revelations and he is the Central Authority for establishing the Divine System on Earth). But if they turn away, Allah does not love the deniers of Truth since they choose to remain in darkness."

3:33 (This is the Final Perfected Guidance for all humanity). But Allah has chosen people before to convey the Message. Adam, the first humans were chosen (to have free will apart from the animal kingdom). Then Noah, the family of Abraham and the family of Imran were chosen above other peoples of their times.

3:34 In one lineage. Allah is the Hearer, Knower of all things and events. (Muhammad belongs to the same progeny of Abraham through Ishmael, and Jesus belongs to it through the family of Imran). Now is related to you the truth about Jesus son of Mary. History has made fiction of these two real great servants of Allah).

3:35 The wife of Imran prayed, "My Lord! I have dedicated the baby in my belly to You entirely, (for the service of the temple). So accept from me. You are Hearer, Knower."

3:36 When she was delivered she said, "My Lord! I am delivered of a female." Allah knew best what she delivered; the male is not the same as the female. (The male she had prayed for could have not been like the outstanding daughter she was granted). "I have named her Mary, I request Your protection for her and for her descendants from the rejected Satan." (Allah knew that this female would have a role, which no male could have, in breaking the shackles of asceticism. As a custom, nuns were allowed to marry only monks during those times).

3:37 And her Lord accepted her graciously. (Mary was dedicated to the Temple) and she grew up in beauty and purity, a gracious upbringing, under the guardianship of Zechariah. (He was a Prophet of Allah and a distant uncle of Mary). Whenever he entered the chamber of Mary, he found that she had food. Knowingly he asked, “O Mary! Where does this food come from?” (Mary's devotees were taking good care of her. Like all saints) she said, “It is from Allah. Allah provides according to His Laws and sometimes in unexpected ways.”

3:38 Seeing a lovely child grow before his eyes, Zechariah prayed to his Lord, “My Lord! Bless me by bestowing upon me a good child; You are the Hearer of prayer.”

3:39 While he was still praying in the chamber, angels announced to him, “Allah gives you the good news of a son, Yahya (John the Baptist) who would reiterate the Word of Allah, be outstanding among men, and a strict disciplinarian, and a Prophet among those who greatly contribute to humanity.”

3:40 Zechariah prayed to Allah, but then wondered, “My Lord! How could I have a son when old age has overtaken me already and my wife is barren?” He said, “So it will be, Allah does everything according to His Laws.” The infertility in his wife was cured (21:90).

3:41 Thankful, Zechariah asked, “My Lord! Give a message unto me.” He said, “The Message unto you is that you shall not speak to people three days, except by signs. Remember your Lord much and keep striving in His Cause night and day.” (Abstaining from speech would save the elderly couple from people’s curiosity).

3:42 (Mary kept a spotless character as she grew up into a young lady). Angels told her, “Allah has chosen you, given you spotless character and given you distinction among the women of your times.” (She guarded her chastity and built a strong character in very adverse circumstances. Many monks and devotees of temples used to see the nuns with evil intentions. She was the first revolutionary feminine voice against the exploitations of monasteries).

3:43 She was told by angels to gather courage, quit monasticism, submit to the Command of her Lord and join her family for normal life bowing to the design of life Allah has ordained for people.

3:44 (O Messenger) We are revealing to you these events of history so that you may dispel conjecture and rumor. You were not there when the monks cast lots and contended with one another to take hold of (the young beautiful) Mary after Zechariah.

3:45 Angels said, “O’ Mary! Allah gives you the good news through a word from Him. His name would be Christ Jesus, son of Mary, held in honor in this world and among the ones close to Me in the Hereafter.”

3:46 Talking to people while very young and in ripe old age in good health.”

3:47 Mary exclaimed! “O My Lord, How shall I have a son when no man has touched me?” He said, “Just as Allah creates everyone according to His Laws (3:40). When Allah decrees a matter, it starts happening.” (In the repressive society Mary had to keep her wedding confidential in the family).

3:48 “And Allah will teach him the Scripture and the Wisdom, the Torah and the Gospel.”

3:49 And he will be a Messenger to the Children of Israel. He will say to them, “I come to you with Revelation from your Lord. If you follow me, I will raise you from dust to the heights of glory by the Command of Allah (7:176). The blind among you will begin to see the Truth. Those of you who are spotted with sin, I will heal them, and I shall grant real life to those who are just dragging on without purpose; all according to the Laws of Allah. I am here to establish justice and equity. I shall see to it how much you hoard in your houses and how much you spend on the community. My teachings are sufficient signs for you to believe.”

3:50 “And I confirm the truth in the Torah before me and to make permissible to you some of what was forbidden. I have come with Your Lord’s Revelation; be mindful of His Commands and obey me.”

3:51 “Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so obey Him. That is the Straight Path.”

3:52 This is what the angels had told Mary. When Jesus grew up He was commissioned to Prophethood. As he sensed their rejection, he called, “Who are my supporters towards Allah?” The disciples said, “We are Allah’s supporters, we believe in Allah and bear you witness that we are those who submit to Him.”

3:53 They said, “Our Lord! We believe in what You have revealed and we shall follow this Messenger, so count us among those who become living witnesses to the Truth.”

3:54 The opponents made some plans, but so did Allah. And Allah is the Virtuous of planners. (They schemed to arrest and crucify Jesus but Allah assured him).

3:55 “O Jesus! I will cause you to die of natural causes and I will exalt you in honor in My Court and I will clear you of the slander of the disbelievers. I will cause those who truly follow you to dominate the rejecters until the Day of Resurrection. Eventually, all of you will return to Me, then I will judge among you about what you used to differ.”

3:56 Those who fail to understand and accept the Divine Laws operative in the Universe, My Law of Requital will cause them to suffer in this world and in the Hereafter. There is no help and there are no helpers for people contrary to these Laws.

3:57 Those who practically believe in Divine Laws and help people, He pays their wages in full. Allah does not love those who displace reality with conjecture.

3:58 (O Messenger) These are the Revelations that We convey to you, a wise Reminder.

3:59 Verily, with Allah, the example or nature of Jesus is that of Adam (the other humans) who were initially created from dust and then evolved through different stages of life (22:5, 30:20). He created mankind beginning from hydrated inorganic matter, then He said unto him, “Be! And he is.” (The process of procreation of the human goes on, “IS”).

3:60 (O Messenger) This is the Truth from your Lord, so there is no room for you in this matter for argumentation.

3:61 If anyone disputes with you regarding Jesus; after the correct knowledge has come to you, say, “Come! We will advise our families and followers and your families and followers, and

ourselves and yourselves to maintain our respective beliefs and leave one another alone. Rejection of the Divine Truth deprives people of Allah's Grace."

3:62 Verily, this is the true account of Jesus. There is no god but Allah. This Proclamation comes from Allah, the Almighty Wise.

3:63 If they turn away from the Truth, then Allah is Aware of the corruptors. (And His Law of Requital makes note of everything for due recompense).

3:64 Say, "O People of the Book! Let us come to a mutual agreement, that we shall worship and obey none but God. That neither shall we ascribe divinity to anyone beside Him, nor shall we take human beings as our lords beside God." And if they turn away, then say, "Bear witness that it is we who have surrendered ourselves unto Him."

3:65 O People of the Book! Why will you argue about Abraham, when the Torah and the Gospel were not revealed until after him? Do you not use your intellect?

3:66 You argued in matters of which you had knowledge (with Moses and about Jesus); why dispute in matters that you know nothing about? Indeed Allah knows and you don't.

3:67 Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was an upright man who had surrendered to Allah. He never ascribed divinity to anyone beside One True God.

3:68 People most worthy of Abraham are those who followed him, and this Prophet and those who believe with him. And Allah is the Protecting Friend of the true believers.

3:69 A party among the People of the Book wish to lead you astray. But, by doing so, they shall only lead themselves astray without knowing it.

3:70 O People of the Book! Why do you deny the truth of God's Messages to which you yourselves bear witness? (Wasn't the Scripture revealed to you? And it foretells the advent of this Prophet).

3:71 O People of the Book! Why do you cloak the Truth with falsehood, and conceal the Truth that you are so well aware of?

3:72 Some People of the Book say to one another, "Declare belief in what has been revealed to the believers in the morning, and reject belief in the evening so that the believers might waver and revert. Or let us declare belief in some part of the Revelation and deny the other to sound fair and cause confusion."

3:73 "And do not really believe in anyone who does not follow your own religion." Say (O Messenger), "The True Guidance is God's Guidance that has been revealed to this Prophet as it came to you before. Do you wish to contend about your Sustainer?" Say, "All Grace is in Allah's hand. He bestows His Grace of Revelation according to His Laws. Allah is all-Embracing, all-Knowing." And He has chosen a non-Israelite Prophet for this Grace (7:157).

3:74 He selects for His Grace whom He Wills. Allah, the Possessor of infinite bounties knows the proper time, place and person for His Revelation.

3:75 Among People of the Scripture are some who can be trusted with a treasure, and they will give it back to you. Others among them cannot be trusted with a single gold coin; they will not repay you unless you keep after them. This is because they say, “We do not have to be honest when dealing with the Gentiles.” Thus, they attribute lies to Allah and they know it.

3:76 Nay, the chosen of Allah is the one who fulfills his pledge and walks aright. Allah loves those who are mindful of His Commands.

3:77 Those who trade away Allah’s pledge and their oaths for worldly gains, will have no portion in the Hereafter. Allah shall neither speak to them nor look upon them on the Day of Resurrection, nor will He make them grow their "Self". Development of the personality can only be accomplished in this life. They have incurred a torment of suffering.

3:78 Among them are those who distort the Scripture with their tongues, that you may think that what they say is from the Scripture, when it is not from the Scripture. And they say, “It is from Allah”, when it is not from Allah. They speak a lie concerning Allah, and they know it.

3:79 Never would a human being, whom Allah has blessed with the Scripture, Wisdom and Prophethood, say to people, “Be servants of me instead of Allah.” Instead he would say, “Become men of God by spreading the knowledge of the Scripture and the teachings you learn there from.”

3:80 Nor would he instruct you to take the angels and the Prophets for lords and patrons. Would he command you to disbelieve after you have surrendered to Allah?

3:81 Allah made a Covenant with all the Prophets, and through them with their respective nations, that they would welcome each of the next Messengers in the process of Divine Revelations and support him. Allah said to the Prophets, “I give you the Scripture and Wisdom. Afterward there would come a Messenger who would confirm the Truth in your Scripture. You shall believe in him and help him.” He said, “Do you agree and take this Covenant as binding on you?” They said, “We agree.” He said, “Then bear witness, and I am with you among the witnesses.” (This was the Covenant with their nations. The personal covenant made with each Messenger is mentioned in 33:7)

3:82 (The People of the Book must uphold this Covenant). Whoever after this shall turn away, has drifted away from the right path.

3:83 Do they seek other than the DEEN of Allah, when all things in the heavens and the earth, willingly and unwillingly submit to Him, and to Him they will be returned. (All things in the Universe surrender to Allah, either by free will as the believers do, or through their innate nature such as animals, trees, stars, or the deniers in their physical as distinct from moral life etc.)

3:84 Say, “We believe in Allah and what has been revealed to us and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and the Prophets of the Israelite Tribes, and that which was given to Moses, Jesus and other Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction among any of them (See 2:253, 17:55). Unto Him we have surrendered.”

3:85 Whoever seeks as religion other than Islam, it will not be accepted from him, and he will be a loser in the Hereafter. (This is because the religion, DEEN of the entire Universe is Islam i.e. submission to the will of God).

3:86 Even Allah will not guide those who go back to their old ways after experiencing the blessings of Faith, and after witnessing that the Messenger is true and after they have been given solid proofs. According to Allah’s Laws those who choose conjecture instead of Realities of life, will not attain Guidance.

3:87 The recompense of such people is the deprivation of the Grace of Allah and of the support of the angels (The physical Laws in the Universe), and of the support of the human society.

3:88 They have chosen for themselves this deprivation in which they will abide without relief.

3:89 But, If they repent and mend their ways, they will find Allah Forgiving, Merciful.

3:90 But those who reject belief after attaining belief and go on adding to their defiance, their repentance will not be accepted (4:18). They are traveling in the wrong direction, so they cannot reach the destination.

3:91 As for those who reject the Truth and die in that state, not the entire gold of the earth shall be accepted from them, if they could offer such ransom. They have incurred a painful doom upon themselves and there shall be no helpers for them.

3:92 You will never attain exponential growth of your "Self" unless you keep spending on others what you love. Allah knows what you spend. Allah, the Knower of your "Self", reminds you that immortality and Paradise are for those who have attained self-actualization by giving (92:18).

3:93 (Jews wonder how certain foods have been declared Permissible in the Qur’an, while they were forbidden for them!) All food was lawful to the Children of Israel, except what Jacob had forbidden for himself before the revelation of the Torah. And there were things that were forbidden to you as a punishment for your transgressions (4:160, 6:147). Say, “Produce the Torah and read it to show what, in the DEEN of Abraham, was contrary to the Qur’an concerning food. Read it unto us if you are truthful.”

3:94 Those who invent a falsehood after that, concerning Allah, will be wrong-doers.

3:95 Say, “Allah speaks Truth. So follow the religion DEEN of Abraham, the upright that shunned all falsehood. He associated no partner with Allah.”

3:96 In fact, he erected the first Sanctuary appointed for humankind at Bakkah (later known as Makkah) a blessed Beacon of guidance for all people.

3:97 Therein are clear signs, the place where Abraham once took stand and bestowed with leadership of humanity (2:124-125). Anyone who enters it finds inner peace and security. Pilgrimage to this House is a duty owed to God by all those who are able to undertake it. People can realize the blessings of unity by rallying around this Center (22:28). As for those who deny the Truth, verily, Allah is Independent of all creation.

3:98 Say, “O People of the Scripture! Why do you deny the Revelations of Allah knowing that Allah Himself is Witness to all your actions?”

3:99 Say, “O People of the Book! Why do you repel believers from the Path of God, seeking to make it crooked, even though you are witnesses to the Divine Guidance?” Allah is not unaware of what you do.

3:100 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! If you obey a party of those who have received the Scripture before, they will make you disbelievers after your belief. (The very act of obeying others against the Messages of Allah is an indication that such believers have not understood the beauty in these Messages).

3:101 How could you choose the darkness of ignorance when Allah's verses are being conveyed to you and are being put into practice by the Messenger? Whoever holds fast to Allah, is already guided onto a Straight Path.

3:102 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Walk aright being mindful of Allah’s Laws as it is due to Him. Let this submission be your resolve all along your life till death.

3:103 You shall hold fast, all of you together, to the Cable of Allah and be not divided among yourselves. The Cable of Allah is your conviction in the Qur’an which is an Unbreakable Support and gives you the noble Ideology (2:256). Remember Allah’s Favor upon you how you were enemies and He made friendship in your hearts. You became brothers and sisters by His Grace. You were on the brink of the Pit of fire, and He saved you from it. Thus Allah makes clear His verses to you that you may be rightly guided.

3:104 Among the world communities, let yours be the community who rises up and implements the Divine Value System. Advocate what the Book calls virtue, and forbid what the Book calls vice. Such are the people who are truly successful and will eventually prosper.

3:105 Be not like those who separated and differed after the clear proofs of Truth had come to them. For such there is an awful doom since they cause divisions instead of unity.

3:106 On the Day, the faces of those who convey the Word of Allah clearly, will be lit up by the Light, and the faces of those who becloud the Light with their sectarian beliefs, shall be portraits of gloom. This is because choosing a sect in DEEN is tantamount to disbelief. So taste a befitting chastisement for your disbelief.

3:107 Those whose faces lit up shall dwell in the Grace of Allah, eternally.

3:108 The Rules given in these Revelations determine the Rise and Fall of nations. This is the Rock Solid Truth. Allah has revealed these Rules because He Wills no injustice in the Worlds, and Wills not that the humans get caught off guard.

3:109 Unto Allah belong all things in the Highs and all things in the Lows. You can see that His Laws govern the heavens and the earth. All things are moving and evolving towards what they are meant to be and all things go back to Allah as their Source.

3:110 Since you have been empowered by the Qur’an, you are the best suited Community that has been raised up for the good of mankind. It is your duty to enjoin the Right and forbid the Wrong, since you accept the Final Word of God as the Criterion (3:4). The Qur’an clearly educates you on the Permanent Moral Value System and decrees authoritatively what the otherwise vague terms of ‘right’ and ‘wrong’, and ‘good’ and ‘evil’ might mean. Now if People of the Scripture had attained

this kind of belief, it would have been for their own good. But only few among them are believers, while most of them are drifting away from the Truth.

3:111 If you truly become worthy of the title of "The Best Suited Community" your opponents would scarcely do a trifling harm and if they come to battle against you, they would flee quickly and find no help.

3:112 Humiliated are they wherever they may be, unless they grasp a bond with God, and a bond with the people. They have incurred displeasure of God, and are committed to disgrace. This is because they have been rejecting the Divine Revelations and have been opposing the Messengers of God, even wrongfully killing some of them. All this, because they rebelled, and persisted in transgressing the bounds of what is right.

3:113 Not all the People of the Scripture are alike. Among them are those who take a firm stand for the right cause, reflect upon the Revelations of Allah by night and fall in full submission.

3:114 They believe in Allah as the One True God, and in the Last Day. They advocate what Allah has decreed as virtuous, and forbid what Allah has decreed as vice. They try to lead in acts of social benefit; such are the ones who augment the human potential.

3:115 No benevolent actions of this kind shall go un-rewarded. Allah knows those who walk aright.

3:116 The wealth and children of the deniers will not avail them against Allah. They will end up in Hellfire to abide therein. (The punishment to humans is built in, in their actions. Allah is not like human tyrants who punish out of anger or displeasure 3:182, 4:111, 20:15, 7:147, 27:90).

3:117 The likeness of what they spend in this life of the world is the likeness of a biting, frosty wind that destroys the harvest of a people who wronged their own “Self”. Allah wronged them not, but they wronged themselves. (They spent their wealth on themselves although it was a trust given to them to share with fellow human beings).

3:118 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not take as intimates others than your own folk. They will do all they can to harm you. They love to see you in distress. Many of them have already voiced their hatred and what they hide in their chests is far worse. We thus clarify Our Commands for you so that you use your intellect.

3:119 You endear them though they endear you not. You believe in all the Scriptures. When they meet you they say, “ We believe as you believe”; but as soon as they leave, they bite their fingers out of rage towards you. Say, “Die in your rage.” Allah is fully Aware of what is hidden in your hearts.

3:120 If something good happens to you, it grieves them but if a calamity befalls you, they rejoice at it. Remain steadfast and keep walking aright, and no amount of their plotting or cunning will harm you. Allah’s Law Surrounds all that they do.

3:121 (O Messenger) Recall, on the day of the Battle of Uhud, you left your household early to station the believers to their positions. Allah is Hearer, Knower of all that transpires.

3:122 Two groups among you fell short of steadfastness, and your men suffered a temporary setback. And Allah was their Protecting Friend. In Allah believers put their trust.

3:123 Recall the year before. At Badr, Allah granted you clear victory although you were few and under-equipped. (Your resolve and steadfastness had made the difference). Be mindful of Allah so that you are grateful in word and action.

3:124 You told the believers, “Is it not enough that your Lord supports you with three thousand angels, sent down?” Fearlessness, determination and courage are the angels Allah sends down upon those who strive in the Cause of Allah (8:10-12, 41:30).

3:125 Indeed if you steadfastly persevere and be mindful of Allah’s Laws, and then the enemy attacks you suddenly, your Lord will support you with five thousand angels sweeping on.

3:126 Allah gave the tiding allegorically only as a message of good cheer for you, and that your hearts might be at rest. Courage and steadfastness are Allah’s angels. There is no victory contrary to the Laws of Allah, the Almighty Wise.

3:127 He annihilated some disbelievers, or neutralized them and that they end up as the losers.

3:128 It is not your concern (O Messenger), whether He forgives them or punishes them, for they are wrongdoers.

3:129 Everything in the Universe and everything in the earth belongs to Allah. His Law of Requital deals with forgiveness and punishment in all fairness. The Forgiving, the Merciful Allah has designed His Laws.

3:130 (The battle was about protection from the external threat. Your prime duty remains to preserve a benevolent society, to which usury is a big detriment). Usury is the return on money while trade is the return on labor (2:275). O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not eat up other people's money by way of usury that appears to you ever-increasing. But Allah’s Law blights usury and flourishes acts of caring (2:276). Walk aright in the Way of Allah to attain true prosperity.

3:131 And guard yourselves and the society against the Fire that has been prepared for the rejecters of the Divine Commandments.

3:132 Follow the System of Allah that the Messenger has established. That is how you will achieve the development of your "Self". A benevolent society helps you to grow like a mother's womb nourishes the embryo.

3:133 Move forward to the tranquil security that comes from your Lord when you follow His Guidance, and to the Paradise that transcends spatial boundaries, and it has been prepared for those who are mindful of Allah’s Laws.

3:134 The candidates to this Paradise keep their wealth open for mankind in favorable as well as in adverse circumstances. They divert and sublimate their anger and potentially virulent emotions to creative energy, and become a source of tranquility and comfort to people. They pardon people gracefully. Allah loves the benefactors of humanity.

3:135 Such men and women quickly correct any wrong or indecency that has occurred from them, they remember Allah, and protect themselves from trailing behind in dignity. And who can absolve imperfections but Allah? They refrain from willfully persisting in error.

3:136 Since they have worked sincerely, their reward is with their Lord in the form of magnificent Gardens with rivulets flowing underneath, wherein they will abide forever, a bountiful reward for sincere workers.

3:137 Systems have passed away before you. (Man-made systems before you, and now before your eyes, are there to reflect upon). Do but travel in the land and see the outcome of nations that rejected the Divine Laws.

3:138 This Qur'an is a declaration to the entire humankind, a Beacon of Guidance and Admonition for those who wish to journey through life in blissful honor and security.

3:139 Do not ever lose heart, and grieve not, for you are bound to prevail if you are truly believers. (4:141).

3:140 If you suffer hardship, the enemy also suffers hardship. Such days of varying fortunes are governed by Universal Laws. Allah thus distinguishes the true believers, and blesses some of you with martyrdom. They have become witnesses to the power of Truth with their lives. Allah does not love those who displace courage with fear.

3:141 The true believers emerge stronger from every challenge. On the other hand, the rejecters of Divine Laws wither away.

3:142 Do you expect to enter Paradise without Allah distinguishing those among you who strive, and without distinguishing those who are steadfast?

3:143 You used to long for death in the Cause of Allah before you faced it. Now you have faced it, right before your eyes. You understand that honorable life in this world belongs to those who have conquered the fear of death, and that death is the gateway to the Eternal life.

3:144 Muhammad is but a Messenger. All Messengers before him have passed on. If he died or were slain, would you turn back on your heels? The System he has established is here to stay and to become a Beacon of Light for all humanity. If anyone turns away, he would not harm Allah. Allah will soon reward the appreciative. They will reap the fruit of the Benevolent System and then in the Hereafter.

3:145 Allah's Law governs life and death. No one dies except by Allah's leave and at a term appointed per His Laws. Whoever seeks only the vanities of this world, We give him thereof, and whoever seeks the rewards of the Hereafter, We bless him thereof. The Qur'an shows you the Way to success in both worlds (24:55, 28:77). We will soon reward the appreciative.

3:146 Many Prophets have fought in the Cause of Allah and with them a great many men of God, without wavering under adversity, nor did they hesitate nor became discouraged. Allah loves the steadfast.

3:147 They only said, "Our Lord! Protect us from trailing behind, forgive our excesses, make our foothold sure, and give us victory over the rejecters of Truth."

3:148 Allah gave them excellent reward in this world and in the Hereafter. Allah loves the benefactors of humanity.

3:149 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! If you obey the (overt or covert) rejecters of the Divine System, they will make you turn back on your heels and you will become losers. (The Messenger will not be among you forever 3:144).

3:150 Remember, only Allah is your MAULA (Master) and He is the Best of helpers.

3:151 (Our Law removes fear and grief from the hearts of people who submit to the Divine Guidance alone. 2:38) And causes fear in the hearts of those who are bent upon denying the Truth since they ascribe divine powers besides Allah. People and idols would have no authority against the Laws of Allah. Fire is their abode, a miserable resting place for the wrongdoers.

3:152 Allah made good His promise to you when you routed them by His leave. But then you wavered, disputed among yourselves, and disobeyed after He had shown you the victory you wanted. You were winning the battle of Uhud, but then some of you were distracted by the spoils of the world, while others were concerned with the Hereafter. You disengaged from the enemy and were tested according to His Law. When you mended, Allah pardoned you. Allah is full of Grace for the true believers.

3:153 You were climbing up the hill without looking around and the Messenger was calling you. You suffered according to Allah's Law of Requital. Grieve not about the loss and hardship you have suffered. Allah’s Law has adequate provision to nullify the effects of your misgivings. Allah is Informed of all your actions.

3:154 After the setback, He sent down upon you calm that pacified some of you. While another group was anxious with their own feelings and wrong assumptions about Allah due to ignorance. (They were hypocrites worried for their lives). They said, “Do we have any control?” Tell them, “All control belongs to Allah.” You can control events only within the framework of His Laws. These hypocrites concealed within themselves what they did not reveal to you. They said, “If we had nothing to do with this battle and had stayed home we would not have been harmed.” Say, “Had you stayed in your homes, those destined to be killed would have crawled themselves to the circumstance of death.” Allah thus lets you test your real convictions. Allah is Aware of what is in the hearts.

3:155 Those of you, who turned back on that day when the two armies clashed, it was their selfish desire which caused them to backslide. This happened because of their imperfections. Allah pardoned them (since their good outweighed their shortcomings). Allah is Forgiving, Forbearing.

3:156 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not be like disbelievers who grieve that if their brethren had stayed home with them, rather than going out traveling or defending, they wouldn't have died or been killed. Such attitude creates anguish in the hearts according to Allah’s Laws. Fear of death takes away "life" out of life. Allah gives life and causes death and Allah is Seer of your behavior.

3:157 If you are slain or die in the defense of the Divine System, you did not give your life in vain. You leave behind a legacy of steadfastness against adversity, and protection for the society. You become worthy of the Grace of Allah that is better than whatever human beings might amass.

3:158 Whether you die or get slain, life goes on to its Destination; you will be gathered before Allah.

3:159 It is a Mercy of Allah that you (O Messenger), are lenient and compassionate with people. If you were harsh and fierce of heart, they would have broken away from you. Pardon their imperfections, arrange their protection and consult with them about the conduct of affairs. Once you have taken a decision, put your trust in Allah. Allah loves those who do their best and then trust in Allah.

3:160 When Allah helps you no one can overcome you. If He withdraws His help from you, who is there who can help you? If you ignore His Laws, His Laws forsake you. Believers put their trust in Allah (since He never changes his Laws).

3:161 No Prophet could ever act dishonestly. Anyone who acts dishonestly will have to account for it on the Day of Resurrection. That is when every “Self” shall receive the recompense and they will not be wronged.

3:162 Is one who seeks the Approval of Allah the same as one who earned Allah’s disapproval, and his destiny is Hell, the most miserable abode?

3:163 They are at different levels with Allah. Allah is Seer of what they do. The ranks of all people are determined solely by their deeds, and your Lord is not unaware of anything they do (6:132).

3:164 Allah verily has done a great favor to the believers. He has sent a Messenger from amongst them, who conveys and implements the Revelations of Allah. He shows them the way to grow in humanity, and teaches them the Book and Wisdom therein. Before the Messenger came to them, they were in flagrant error.

3:165 Now that you have suffered a setback at Uhud, remember you inflicted twice as much on the enemy at Badr. You say, “How did this happen?” Say (O Messenger), “This is from your own selves.” (3:152). Allah has appointed due measure for everything.

3:166 If you suffered when the two armies clashed, it happened according to Allah's Laws. He made it a test for the believers to know their strength and weakness.

3:167 And that He might distinguish the hypocrites from the believers. They were told, “Come fight in the Cause of Allah, or at least defend the city.” They said, “If we knew that confrontation were forthcoming, we would have joined you.” On that day they were closer to disbelief than belief. They say with their mouths what is not in their hearts. Allah is best Aware of what they conceal.

3:168 Those who sat back at home said that if their brothers who were fighting in the Cause of Allah, had listened to them they would not have been slain. Say (O Messenger), “Avert death from yourselves if you are truthful.”

3:169 Think not of those, who are slain in the Cause of Allah, as dead. Nay, they are alive! With their Lord they have provision. (2:154).

3:170 They are jubilant in the bounty that Allah has given them. And rejoicing for those believers whom they have left behind and who have not joined them yet in Bliss. They shall have nothing to fear or to regret.

3:171 They rejoice because of the favor from Allah and the blessings - they have seen that Allah does not waste the wage of the believers.

3:172 Those who respond to Allah and the Messenger even after being wounded or harmed in the battle, such of them have truly worked collective good and walked aright. Theirs is an outstanding reward. Responding to the call from Allah and His Messenger gives humans the real life (8:24).

3:173 When people said to them, “A great army has assembled against you, so fear them.” But the threat only increased them in their conviction. They said, “Allah suffices for us and He is the best Guardian.”

3:174. They marched forward with conviction and returned with Allah's favor and blessings, and no harm touched them in either case. They sought Allah's Approval, and Allah is of Infinite Bounty.

3:175 It is only Satan, your selfish desire in different guises, that instills fear. Fear not them! You shall fear Me and violating My Commands, if you are indeed believers.

3:176 Let not the conduct of those who rush to rejection, grieve you. They harm the Almighty Allah not the least bit. It is His Law that such people deprive themselves of any portion in the Hereafter. For them is an awful retribution.

3:177 Those who trade denial at the cost of belief, harm Allah not the least. For them is a painful doom.

3:178 Let not the rejecters imagine that the Law of Requital is unreal. We give reprieve to Our servants to rethink and mend their ways. Those who persist in actions that deplete the capacity of the society invite for themselves a humiliating chastisement.

3:179 Allah will not leave the believers confounded. He will clearly distinguish the good from the bad, the right from the wrong, and the true believers from the hypocrites. It is not the Purpose of Allah to let you know the unseen that the hypocrites hide in their hearts. But Allah chooses His Messengers to receive knowledge of the unseen as He Wills. So believe in Allah and His messengers. If you believe and walk aright, yours will be an Immense Reward.

3:180 Let not those, who withhold what Allah has given them from His bounties think that this hoarding is good for them. Nay, it is bad for them. Their hoarded possessions shall be their collar on the Day of Resurrection. Whatever is in the heavens and in the earth is the heritage of Allah. He bestows His provision to humanity for equitable distribution to all (55:10). And Allah is fully Informed of all your actions.

3:181 Allah has heard the taunt of those who said, "Allah is poor and we are rich!" They say this since most of the first followers of the Messengers have been indigent (11:27). We will record everything they say, just as We recorded their killing of the prophets unjustly. We shall say, "Now taste the punishment of burning.”

3:182 This, because of what you have earned with your own hands. Allah is never a tyrant over His servants.

3:183 It is they (the Children of Israel) who say, “God has taken a promise from us that we shall not believe in any Messenger unless he brings us a burnt offering.” (An animal sacrifice that a fire from the heaven shall consume, or that burning of the sacrifice shall be an ordinance). Say (O Prophet), “ Messengers before me came to you with clear Revelations, and as you claim, with burnt offering. Why then did you slay them?” (I Thessalonians ii, 15 / Matthew xxiii, 37)

3:184 If they reject you (O Messenger), remember they have rejected Messengers before you who came with clear signs, the Psalms and Divine Revelation giving Light.

3:185 Every living being shall have to taste death. On the Resurrection Day you shall be paid in full what you have earned. Whoever is drawn away from the Fire, and gets admitted to Paradise, will have gained supreme triumph. Those who consider the life of the world as the end in itself should know that it is only a comfort of self-deception. The real success depends on striving for this world and for the Hereafter (2:201, 10:63-64, 14:27).

3:186 O You who have attained belief! You will be tried in (establishing and defending the Divine System) in wealth, life, labor and resolve. You will be tested in your families, your people and in your character. You will hear much ridicule from those who were given the scripture before you, and from the idolaters. If you persevere and walk aright, this will be a confirmation of your determination.

3:187 Allah took a Covenant from those who received the Scripture, “You shall convey the Message to people and never conceal it.” But they flung it behind their backs, and traded it away for a little gain. What a miserable bargain!

3:188 (And yet they exult in that!) Think not that those who boast about their works, and love to be praised for what they have not done -- Think not, they can escape chastisement. For them is an awful suffering.

3:189 To Allah belongs the Dominion of the heavens and the earth. He has Power over all things and events.

3:190 In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the alternation of night and day, there are signs for men and women of understanding.

3:191 Men and women of understanding keep learning how Allah’s Laws are operational in the Universe. While standing, sitting and on their sides, whatever state they are in, they observe and reflect upon the wonders of Allah's creation in the heavens and the earth, in the Highs and the Lows. They exclaim, "Our Lord! You did not create all this in vain, be You glorified! Save us from the retribution of the Fire.” As the humans harness the Universal Laws, coupled with adopting the Divine Value System, they shall move away from hell and get closer to establishing a Paradise on earth (45:13-14).

3:192 Reflecting on the Universe and upon their own role on the Planet, such people work for the betterment of humanity (13:17). They say, “Our Lord, whomever You commit to Hell, are the ones You have forsaken because they had forsaken You (59:19). For those who displace reflection with conjecture there are no helpers.”

3:193 Our Lord! We have heard a caller calling to Faith, “Believe you in your Lord!” (The caller being the Book of Nature to which these verses are drawing our attention). And we have believed. Our Lord! Grant us the protection of your forgiveness, save us from trailing behind in humanity, help us correct our inequities, and let us be among those who advanced their personality before they passed on.

3:194 They also say, “Our Lord! Since we have believed in the Messengers and tried to translate this belief into action, grant us what You promised through them. Save us from humiliation on the

Day when humanity will stand on its feet, in this world and in the Hereafter. Verily, You never break Your Promise."

3:195 And their Lord has heard them, "I never let the effort of any worker, male or female, go vain. Men and women are from one another, so their Recompense shall be equal. Those who emigrated, or were driven out of their homes, and suffered harm in My Cause, and fought and were slain, I shall blot their inequities. The imprints of their misdeeds on their "Self" will be erased. I shall admit them into Gardens with rivulets flowing beneath." A Reward from Allah. And with Allah is the best Reward.

3:196 (O Prophet) Let it not deceive you that the rejecters of the Truth seem to be able to do on earth as they please.

3:197 It is but a brief enjoyment. Hell is their resting place; what a miserable bed to lie on! (They invested not in the Hereafter).

3:198 Those who walked aright as enjoined by their Lord, for them are scenic Gardens, with rivulets flowing beneath, a Gift of Welcome from their Lord. And the reward from Allah is the best for such people who have grown in humanity and eased the way for others.

3:199 Among the People of the Book are some who believe in Allah, and in that which is revealed to you, and in what was revealed to them. They humble themselves before Allah. They trade away not Allah's Revelations for a little gain. Verily, their Reward is with their Lord and Allah is Swift in account.

3:200 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be patient in adversity, outdo others in endurance, and remain united strengthening the bond of mutual brotherhood. Be mindful of your duty to Allah and be assured that your efforts will bear fruit.

## Surah 4 – An-Nisaa – The Women

[Author's note] This is the 4th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 176 verses. In general, NISAA means women in the society unless the description involves husbands. AZWAJ means spouses, ZAUJAH means wife and ZAUJ means husband. On many occasions the context will define the exact connotation these terms carry. Allama Iqbal once commented that if he were an atheist, he would have thought that the Qur'an was written by a group of women! "Women have rights over men as men have rights over women."

Respected readers of THE QUR'AN AS IT EXPLAINS ITSELF will note that the long discussions and disputations about whether a particular Surah is Makki or Madani are totally irrelevant to the Message of the Qur'an, and so is the SHANE NUZOOL business i.e. the circumstances of Revelation. Not only these indulgences have caused differences among the commentators but they have taken up the readers' precious time in a "vain sport". More importantly this exercise tends to shackle the timeless Book of Allah with some event that is "reported" to have happened.

Regarding evolution it must be borne in mind again that the Process of evolution given in the Qur'an does not support every thesis in the Darwinian theory.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

4:1 The noble goal of the development of human personality can be easier achieved in a benevolent society (9:111, 16:71, 43:32, 59:9). In this situation the individual and the society complement each other (14:34). At the outset, it is imperative for you, O Mankind, to know that all of you, men and women, have a common origin. Your Lord began the creation of life at the unicellular level. There was one life cell that divided into two, male and female (6:99). Evolution took place, as has been alluded to in this Book (16:8, 20:50, 21:30, 22:45, 30:20, 31:28, 51:49). Eventually, numerous men and women came into existence on the earth. Since all of you have this common origin, you must consider all mankind as one community (10:19, 57:25). Your first step in that direction is to strengthen your family relations. Be careful of your duty to Allah in Whose Name you expect rights from one another. Allah ever Watches over you.

4:2 Orphans in the community are like your family members (33:5). Be vigilant in guarding their rights (4:127). Protect their property honestly, and give it to them when they have come of age. Exchange not their valuables with your worthless items, nor consume their property by combining it with yours; doing such would be a grave offense.

4:3 If you fear that the society shall not be able to do justice with orphans, (as may happen in times of war and political turbulence, the government shall announce a state of Emergency). In order to accommodate widows and orphans, men of sound finances and character shall be encouraged to marry these widows; two, three, and four (4:127). If you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly, then you must not take additional wives, and may continue with what you already have (4:129). This will prevent injustice and financial hardship.

4:4 Upon marriage, give women their marital gifts, a generous portion of your property, unless they forgo it voluntarily. In that case you are welcome to accept it as rightfully yours.

4:5 Do not let the immature orphans manage their property that Allah has entrusted with you as guardians, until they are able to make sound financial decisions. Feed and clothe them decently, take care of all their needs and interact with them kindly.

4:6 Train and educate the orphans well. When they reach the age of marriage, and attain sound judgment, release their property to them. The marriageable age shall mean attainment of physical and mental maturity when one can legally make a solemn contract (4:21). Do not consume their property or let it be wasted. Nor hastily spend it fearing that they will come of age. If the guardian is well off, let him claim no compensation for the management of the property. But, if he is poor he may have a just and reasonable amount. When you are releasing the property to the orphans be sure to take witnesses. Remember that Allah is Competent in taking account.

4:7 Men get a share of what the parents and near relatives leave behind. Women get a share of what the parents and near relatives leave behind. Women have the right to own property (4:12). Whether the inheritance is small or large, these shares have been ordained as a duty.

4:8 If at the time of distribution of the inheritance, relatives, orphans, and the needy are present, give them from it and treat them kindly.

4:9 The distribution of inheritance must be done responsibly and according to Law. Treat others, as you would like to be treated. You will never want injustice to be done to your children, if you leave them behind. In matters such as these, speak clearly and straight to the point.

 

4:10 Those, who unjustly consume the wealth of orphans, are filling their bellies with fire and will be exposed to burning Flame.

4:11 Preparing a will is a duty ordained (2:180). Allah decrees a will for the benefit of your children.

- (Since the sons have the responsibility to take care of the family, and daughters will be cared for by their husbands, or if unmarried, by other males in the family), sons get twice the share of daughters.
  - If two, or more, daughters are the only inheritors, they get two-thirds.
  - If only one daughter is left, she gets one-half.
  - If the deceased has left any children, then parents get one-sixth each.
  - If there are no children, and parents are the only heirs, the mother gets a third and the father gets two-thirds, since the male has the fiscal responsibility of the family.
  - If the deceased has left brothers or sisters, the mother gets one-sixth and the father gets one third.
-

  Remember, this distribution shall take place after fulfilling the will if the deceased has left one, and after paying off all debts. As for your parents and your children, you know not which of them is more deserving of benefit from you. Such is the Ordinance from Allah. Verily, Allah is Omniscient, Wise.

4:12 Additionally:

- If a couple had no children, the husband gets half of what the wife leaves behind.
- If they had children, the husband gets one-fourth.
- If they had no children, then the wives get one-fourth of what the husband leaves behind.
- If they had children then the wife gets one-eighth.
- If a man or a woman, whose inheritance is in question, was a loner, in the sense of leaving behind no ascendants or descendants, but leaves behind a sister and a brother, each of them gets one-sixth of the inheritance. If there are more than two siblings, they equally share one-third of the inheritance.
- For a deceased who has no living parents, see 4:176, 4:177.

The above applies after fully satisfying the will, and after paying of all debts, so that no one's rights are infringed upon. This is the Will decreed by Allah who is All-Knowing, Clement.

4:13 Protection of life, honor and property is the springboard of a vibrant social order. It is the pre-requisite for freedom, equality and character building to the point of self-actualization (4:24, 5:32, 13:24, 17:32, 38:52, 69:21, 89:27). Allah has drawn Boundaries of Law to help you safeguard this crucial pre-requisite. Those who refrain from trespassing these Boundaries are the ones who have obeyed the Divine System established by the Messenger. They shall be admitted to the everlasting Promised Garden that has all the aesthetic elegance that the human mind could ever imagine. That is the Supreme Success.

4:14 Conversely, those who disobey Allah and the Messenger by going against the Divine System established by the Messenger, trespass the Boundaries of the Divine Law and they will be admitted into an everlasting Fire of humiliation and regret.

4:15 Protection of honor and chastity for men and women, both, is the cornerstone of a virtuous society (17:32, 4:24). If any woman or a group of women spread sexual immorality or lewdness in the society, it is required that the appropriate court takes four honorable and reliable witnesses. If

their testimony corroborates with other evidence (12:26), confine them to their houses, since immorality is as contagious as good conduct. This confinement would be for an indefinite period, unless such women seek the Way of Allah, such as repentance and amendment, or the singles among them get honorably married.

4:16 If a couple spreads such immorality or lewdness in the society, both of them shall be punished by the appropriate court of law. If they repent and amend, leave them alone. Allah is the Acceptor of repentance, Merciful.

4:17 Allah graciously accepts the repentance of those who do evil in ignorance, and then return quickly to the right conduct. Allah turns to them in Mercy. He is the Knower, the Wise.

4:18 The forgiveness is not for those who commit transgressions until death comes to one of them and he says, “ Behold, I repent now.” (They have no time to make mends). Nor is the forgiveness for those who die as deniers of the Truth. We have prepared an awful suffering for them.

4:19 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! It is not lawful for you to force women into marrying or holding on to them in marriage against their will. Pressuring women to remain in wedlock by threatening to take away the marital gift is forbidden. A wife could forfeit the right to the marital gift only if she has indulged in clear lewdness. You shall treat your wives nicely. Even if you dislike them, it may happen that Allah has placed much good in what you have failed to realize.

4:20 If you wish to marry another wife in place of your present wife, and you have given her a great deal, you shall not take back anything. Would you take it back by way of slander, a transgression that shall sink your "Self" down?

4:21 And how could you take the marital gift back from her after you have lived intimately with each other and after she has taken from you a very Solemn Pledge of the marital contract?

4:22 Marry not women whom your fathers have ever married, except what has already happened in the Age of Ignorance. Doing such was a shameful and abominable custom indeed.

4:23 The following women are prohibited for you in marriage: Your mothers, daughters, sisters, father's sisters, mother's sisters, brother's daughters, sister's daughters, foster-mothers who have ever nursed you, foster-sisters, your wives' mothers, your step-daughters unless you have divorced their mother without being intimate with her. Also forbidden are women who have ever been the wives of your sons. You are not allowed to keep two sisters in wedlock at one time except what has already happened in the past. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

4:24 Also forbidden to you are women who are already married, except those women who have sought asylum with you against their disbelieving husbands at war with you (60:10). This is Allah’s Ordinance binding upon you. All other categories are permitted for you in marriage, with mutual consent, as confirmed by giving her a generous marital gift or dowry. You shall seek them in honest wedlock and let marriage be a fortress of chastity for the husband and wife. You shall maintain morality and go not near adultery (17:32). You like to marry women for a better quality of life, so give them their portions as a duty. And there is nothing wrong in adjusting the sum with mutual agreement after the duty has been done. These Laws are given to you by Allah, the Knower, the Wise.

4:25 (As the Qur'an is being revealed to you (O Messenger), the emancipation of the slaves, male and female, is steadily taking place). A man among you who cannot find a free believing woman willing to marry him, should have no hesitation in asking the hand of a believing maiden from her guardian. Allah knows your beliefs and reiterates that all human beings are equal in the Sight of Allah (17:70). Pay them a generous marital gift in kindness. They shall maintain moral behavior, by not committing adultery, or having secret relations. Since their upbringing has been deficient in the environment of slavery, their punishment will be half that of the free women, if they commit indecency after marriage. The permission to marry a bonded woman is for him who fears to commit sin. The better recourse is freeing her first from bondage. Men and women must be patient and exercise self-control while waiting to get married. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

4:26 Allah would explain to you and guide you by the examples of those who were before you, and turn to you (in Mercy). And Allah is Knower, Wise.

4:27 Allah turns to you in kindness, while those who follow their desires want that you drift far away from the right path. (They would rather have no laws to constrain their desires).

4:28 Allah wishes to lighten your burden with His Guidance. The human being is created weak, having the tendency to fall victim to his own selfish desire (7:17, 25:28-29).

4:29 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Consume not one another's wealth wrongfully, not even in mutually agreed trade. Be just in your trade and cause not people to suffer losses. Do not destroy one another, and thus do not destroy your "Self". Allah is Merciful to you so you must be merciful to others." ("Illa" here means 'not even' and not 'except'). (2:188, 26:181).

4:30 After such clear Guidance, people and nations that indulge in transgressions and injustice, shall form a society that shall easily burn itself according to Our Law of Requital. And the eternal Fire is not far off either.

4:31 If you refrain from the great transgressions against humanity that are prohibited in the Qur'an i.e. violation of human rights, We have room in Our Laws to remove the slight inequities in your society, and admit you through the gate of honor in this world and the Hereafter.

4:32 Covet not the qualities bestowed upon others by Allah. Men shall earn what they do and women shall earn what they do. Men excel in some areas and women excel in some areas. Envy not one another but seek Allah's bounty to the best of your abilities. Allah is ever Knower of all things.

4:33 We have ordained the writing of wills, and for each of you are the designated shares in the property left by the parents and the relatives (4:11-12-33-176). As for those to whom you have solemnly pledged, give them in your life. Allah is Witness over all things and events.

4:34 Men are the protectors and maintainers of women. They shall take full care of women with what they spend of their wealth. Allah has made men to excel in some areas and women to excel in some areas. Men must see to it that women are provided for, and that they are able to stand on their feet in the society. So, righteous women are obedient to Allah's Ordinances and guard their moral values even in privacy, the Values that Allah Commands to be guarded. If you experience rebellion from women, and they stand up against you, apprise them of possible consequences. Next, leave them in their resting places apart from you. And keep admonishing them with examples that they stop rebelling. If they pay heed to you, seek not a way against them. Allah is Most High,

Great.
['Nushooz' = to stand up 2:259, 58:11; to stand up against, to rebel / 'wa'az' = to apprise of consequences 2:231, 3:66 / 'dharb' = example 13:17, 16:74, 36:13; 'dharb' = to stop 18:11, 43:5].

4:35 (Families and communities must adopt a proactive approach regarding a husband and a wife in discord). If you fear a breach between a husband and wife, appoint two arbiters, one from his family and one from her family. If they decide to reconcile, Allah will help them get together. Verily, Allah is Knower, Aware. (2:228-234, 4:3, 4:19, 4:35, 4:128, 33:49, 58:1 65:1-4).

4:36 Obey Allah and associate no partner with Him.
- Treat kindly your parents, relatives,
- The orphans,
- And those who have been left alone in the society.
- Take care of the needy,
- The disabled,
- Those whose hard earned income is insufficient to meet their needs,
- And those whose businesses have stalled,
- And those who have lost their jobs.
- You shall treat kindly your related neighbors,
- And unrelated neighbors,
- Companions by your side in public gatherings,
- Or public transportation.
- Be generous to the needy wayfarer,
- the homeless son of the street,
- and the one who reaches you in a destitute condition.
- Be nice to people who work under your care.

Allah does not love the proud and boastful.

4:37 Those who are stingy and advise others to be stingy, and hide what Allah has given them of His Bounty, for such ungrateful disbelievers We have prepared a humiliating punishment.

4:38 They give money to charity only to show off, and do not believe in Allah and the Last Day. Such people have taken Satan, their selfish desire, as their intimate companion. What a terrible companion indeed!

4:39 What have they to fear if they believe in Allah and the Last Day and spend of what Allah has given them? Allah is ever Aware of them.

4:40 Allah wrongs not anyone even the weight of an atom; and He multiplies a good deed, and from His Own Presence grants a great reward.

4:41 How will it be with them when (on the Resurrection Day) We bring of every community a witness, their Prophet(10:47), and We bring you (O Messenger), a witness against these, of your community? (2:143).

4:42 On that Day, those who denied the Truth and paid no heed to the Messenger will wish that they were level with the ground. But not a single utterance or event could they hide from Allah.

4:43 (Those who attain belief shall promptly establish the Divine System in the community, and the Masjid would assume the role of the community center. The believers will assemble in the Masjid for prayer, and to address social welfare and community action). O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Join not the Salat congregation if your mind is beclouded for any reason, until you understand what you utter, else you might say senseless words that disturb the assembly. Physical cleanliness contributes to moral purity. So, take a bath after ceremonial impurity. If you are traveling, or are ill, or coming from the privy, and cannot find water, take a little clean sand or earth and lightly rub your faces and hands, before entering the Masjid. (This will help you prepare psychologically for the assembly 5:6). Allah pardons and absolves your imperfections.

4:44 Have you noted those who were given a portion of the Scripture but they purchased error for petty gains. (They fell for man-made books). They desire that you do the same and thus stray from the Right Path.

4:45 Allah knows your enemies. (He shows you the Way to protect and help yourselves). As such, Allah is Sufficient as a Protecting Friend and Allah is Sufficient as a Helper.

4:46 Some of those who are Jews, distort words to give a different meaning. They say, "We hear and disobey," and "Your words are falling on deaf ears," and "Be our shepherd," and they twist their tongues to mock the DEEN. It would have been better and more upright for them to say, “We hear and obey,” and “We hear you,” and “Please watch over us and guide us.” Instead, they have incurred deprivation from the Grace of Allah due to their denial of the Truth. Few of them will embrace belief.

4:47 O You unto whom the Scripture was given! Reflect and believe in what We have revealed, that confirms the truth that you already possess, lest We efface your hopes and bring them to an end. Just as We rejected those people who broke the Sabbath. (You will lose your identity by getting scattered in the earth). Allah's Command is always done.

4:48 Allah is the Sovereign in the Universe. Whoever ascribes partners to Allah, or divinity to any of His creation, has indeed invented a tremendous sin. Allah will forgive any transgression but SHIRK. Included in this category are those who worship their own desire (45:23), those who indulge in human worship and in sectarianism (30:31, 42:21), and those who follow man-made books in lieu of the Book of Allah (6:122, 6:137), and those who claim or believe in Revelation after the Qur’an, in any form, including claims of attaining Divine knowledge through mystical experience (6:62, 7:173, 7:191). And those who uphold Trinity (4:171, 5:72-73.) And those who claim that God has a son, and those who follow their religious leaders (9:31.) Such people fall from the high station of humanity. Worshiping any entity other than Allah, sinks the human "Self" down to subhuman levels (22:31). But most of those who claim belief (and call themselves Muslims), indulge in SHIRK (12:106).

4:49 Have you seen those who claim that they have purified their souls? Purification of "Self" i.e. development of the personality can only be achieved according to the Laws of Allah, by service to humanity and not through rituals or mysticism (2:177, 13:17). In the Court of Allah, men and women shall find full recompense for their doings without the least injustice.

4:50 See, how the claimants to spiritual purity deceive people by inventing lies against Allah. That is sufficient to flagrantly drag them down in humanity.

 

4:51 Are you not aware of those who after receiving their share of the Book (Qur'an) believe in JIBT (baseless mysteries, magic, future-telling, astrology, clairvoyance, evil eye, good and bad omens, amulets, dreams and prophecies, palm-reading, soothsaying, superstitions of all kind, jinn-possession of people, exorcism, blowing verses and senseless words on people or in food and drink, counting names on rosaries) and they believe in TAGHOOT (the evil humans who try to play God with their tyranny or with their religious exploitation as priests and monks, mullahs and sufis of any religion)? And then they claim that they, the deniers (of the Qur'an) are better guided than the believers in the Book!

4:52 It is they whom Allah has rejected, and there is no one to help whom Allah rejects.

4:53 Do the people who make claims of divination and clairvoyance have a share in the Divine Kingdom? But if they did, they won't give humanity the speck on a date-stone. (4:124, 15:13).

4:54 Or do they envy other people whom Allah has given of His Bounty? But, Allah does not favor any nation arbitrarily. He is the Lord of all humanity (114:1). We gave the Children of Abraham the Scripture, the Law and Wisdom, and We gave them a great kingdom.

4:55 Some of the Children of Abraham have attained belief in the Prophet while others turn away from him. And enough is Hell for a burning fire.

4:56 Those who are rejecting Our Revelations and opposing the establishment of the Divine System, will soon burn in the agony of defeat. If they come with renewed preparation they will taste further chastisement. Allah is Almighty, Wise.

4:57 Those who attain belief and translate their belief into action by helping people thus creating balance in the society, We shall soon admit them to the Gardens underneath which rivers flow. They will dwell therein forever. For them are virtuous companions, and We shall make them enter the pleasing shadows of Our Grace.

4:58 Allah Commands you to entrust your offices to those who are capable, competent and sincere. They shall rule and judge equitably. Give your trusts to whom they belong. The Enlightenment from Allah is a blessing for you. He is Hearer, Seer of all that transpires in the Universe and in your society.

4:59 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger, the Central Authority of the Divine System, and those whom the System has appointed as office-bearers. If you have a dispute concerning any matter, refer it to the Central Authority. If you truly believe in Allah and the Last Day, this is the best approach for you, and more seemly in the end.

4:60 Have you thought of those who claim that they believe in what has been revealed to you (O Prophet), as well as in what was revealed before you? Yet, they resort to TAGHOOT (priests and monks of any religion) for judgment in their differences. They had been commanded to reject them but their rebellious desire misleads them far astray.

4:61 When they are told, "Come to what Allah has revealed and to the Messenger", you see the hypocrites shunning him completely.

4:62 They feel ashamed when wrong decisions and judgments hurt them for their own doings. Then they come to you (O Messenger), swearing that they went to others with good and noble intentions.

4:63 Allah knows what is in their hearts. Ignore their attitude, enlighten them and speak to them in plain terms with full understanding of their viewpoints.

4:64 We have sent no Messenger but that he should be obeyed by Allah’s leave. They are not sent with hypotheses, but to show people how they can establish an equitable society, in which people flourish individually and collectively. They attain personal development and become worthy of immortal life in the Paradise (89:29). If anyone hurts his or her "Self" by transgressing His Laws, or wrongs a member of the community, he or she must come to the Messenger, the Central Authority of the System, to make mends. Sitting back at home and praying in hiding won’t help (9:102-105, 20:82, 5:10). The Messenger will then, decide the matter seeing if there is room for forgiveness in the Divine Law. Such is the Moral Order that the Messenger has inculcated in the hearts and in the society where one becomes the watcher over one's own "Self" (8:74-75, 9:100, 48:29, 59:8-9). Indeed, there is plenty of room for making mends, and for mercy in the Divine System. Allah is Acceptor of repentance, Merciful.

4:65 By your Lord, They do not really believe unless they make you (O Prophet) a judge in all their disagreements. And then find no hesitation in their hearts in accepting your judgment, and submit with full submission.

4:66 And if We had decreed for them, “Lay down your lives,” or “Forsake your homelands,” a few of them would do it. Although, if they did as was admonished, it would be for their own good, and a cause for strengthening themselves.

4:67 And then, We would give them from Our Presence an immense reward.

4:68 And would direct them straight to the Path of Paradise.

4:69 Whoever obeys Allah and the Messenger, belongs with those blessed by Allah: the Prophets, the first supporters of the Truth, the martyrs, and those who helped humanity. Ah! How beautiful is their company!

4:70 Such is the Bounty from Allah. And sufficient it is that Allah knows all.

4:71 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be fully prepared against danger. You shall remain alert to meet aggression. Take your precautions then mobilize in groups or all together as determined by your commander.

4:72 Among you there is he who would rather lag behind. If a setback occurs he would say, "Thank God! I was not present among them.”

4:73 But if you attain the blessing of victory from Allah, he says, as if the love between you and him was beyond question, "Oh! I wish I had been with them and could be a part of such a great victory.”

4:74 Let them fight in Allah’s Cause, all those who sell the life of this world for the other. Whoever fights in Allah’s Cause, be he slain or be he victorious, We shall soon give him an immense Reward.

4:75 What has happened to you that you fight not in the Cause of Allah? Defenseless men, women, and children are being oppressed and crying, "Our Lord! Rescue us from this town whose people are oppressors, and raise for us protectors and helpers." It is not the Law of Allah that He comes and fights in person, or sends His armies or angels physically 22:39.

4:76 Believers fight in the Cause of Allah, that is, for the removal of tyranny and in self-defense (benign aggression). And the rejecters of the Truth fight in tyranny and for their selfish desire to oppress people (malignant aggression). So fight against those friends of Satan. Verily, Satan's plan is feeble because the selfish desire fails before the Divine Law of Requital.

4:77 Have you seen those who have been told, “Curb your hands, and establish the Divine System and set up the just Economic Order?” But as soon as the Command came to fight, some of them feared men as they should have feared Allah, or even more. They say, "Our Lord! Why have You ordained fighting for us? If only You had granted us a little more delay!" Say, “Brief is the enjoyment of this world, whereas the life to come is the best for those who walk aright. None of you shall be wronged a hair’s breadth.”

4:78 Wherever you may be, death will find you, even if you live in fortified castles. When something good happens to them, they say, “It is from Allah.” And when affliction befalls them they say to each other, “This is from you O fellow-man!” Tell them, “All things happen according to Allah’s Laws.” What is amiss with these people, they understand not a thing?

4:79 Allah never creates evil. Things and events have good and evil aspects. When you act according to the Law of Allah the results are pleasant, and when you act against the Law the results are unpleasant (42:30). So whatever good happens to you is from Allah, and whatever evil happens to you is from yourself. We have sent you as a Messenger to mankind and Allah is Sufficient as Witness.

4:80 Whoever obeys the Messenger, automatically obeys Allah since he rules by the Book of Allah (5:44). But if they turn away, We have not sent you as a watcher over them.

4:81 They express verbal allegiance to the System, “It is Obedience!” But when they go away from you a party of them spends the night in planning against the Belief System you preach. They discuss ways to corrupt the Message. Allah records what they plan by night. Ignore them, go ahead with your Program and trust in Allah (6:107). Allah is Sufficient as Guardian.

4:82 Will they not then, try to understand this Qur’an? If it were from other than Allah they would surely have found in it much contradiction.

4:83 The Book of Allah provides easy and practical social guidance. There are people who spread rumors pertaining to safety or fear. Those who hear rumors shall refer the matter concerning public safety and threat, to the Messenger and the government officials. Those who are engaged in obtaining intelligence will indeed know what to do with it. Had it not been for the Bounty of Allah and His Mercy, most of you would still be following the Satanic elements.

4:84 O Messenger! Fight in the Cause of Allah. You are responsible only for your own actions. While conveying the Revelation is your prime duty, you also teach the believers wisdom, knowledge and self-development by serving humanity (2:151). Therefore, inspire the believers to overcome all fear of death. Allah may well restrain the fury of the unbelievers who are bent upon destroying the System. Allah is Strongest in Might, Strict in Restraining.

4:85 Whoever rallies to a cause that benefits people shall have a share in its blessings, and whoever rallies to a cause that creates injustice, shall be answerable for his part in it. Allah is Watcher over every thing.

4:86 Good deeds that contribute to the well being of the society begin with kindness (2:177). When someone greets you, respond with similar or more courteous greetings. Allah reckons all things. Anyone who contributes towards peace and betterment of life, do as much or better for him.

4:87 Allah! There is no god but He. He will summon all of you on the Day of Resurrection about the advent of which there is no doubt. Who can tell you a more reliable HADITH (saying) than Allah?

4:88 How could you be of two minds about the hypocrites, seeing that Allah has disowned them because of their own guilt? Can you guide anyone against Allah's Law of Guidance? You can never find a way of enlightenment for those who violate the Divine Laws of Guidance: (Open mind, freedom from prejudice, arrogance, and blind following; use of the faculties of perception and reasoning 7:173, 7:179, 17:36, 27:80-81, 30:22, 37:113, 40:35, 56:79.)

4:89 These hypocrites wish that you reject Belief and become like them. Do not consider them friends unless they practically demonstrate that they have changed, and move along with you in the Way of Allah. But if they persist in their behavior of being with you in word, and against you in action, they are more dangerous than your open enemies. Then subdue them regardless of which group they belong to, and choose no friend or helper among them.

4:90 Fight not the hypocrites who join a people with whom you have signed a peace treaty. And fight not those who come to you wishing not to fight you or their believing relatives. Had Allah willed they could have fought against you. Therefore, if they leave you alone, and offer you peace, Allah has opened no way for you but the way of peace. Your prime duty remains the establishment and defense of the Divine Order in which there is no room for revenge (24:22).

4:91 You will find others who desire peace for their people and make peace with you. But at the slightest opportune moment they come to fight against you. If they neither leave you alone, nor offer peace, nor hold their hands, subdue them regardless of which group they belong to. In their case, Allah has given you a clear authority to fight.

4:92 It is not conceivable that a believer will slay another believer unless it be a mistake. If one kills a believer by mistake, there is the duty of freeing a believing person from bondage; may it be slavery, extreme poverty, crushing debt or oppression. And pay compensation to the victim's family unless they forgo it by way of charity. If case the victim was a believer, and belonged to a tribe who are at war with you, free a believing person from bondage. If the victim was a believer, and belonged to a tribe with whom you have a peace treaty, you should pay the compensation to his family in addition to freeing a believing person from bondage. For those who find this settlement beyond their means, two consecutive months of Abstinence, as in the month of Ramadan, are ordained by way of repentance from Allah. And Allah is the Knower, the Wise.

4:93 Whoever slays a believer intentionally, his or her maximum punishment, considering the circumstances, is capital punishment (2:178, 5:32-33). His requital shall be Hell, therein to abide, and Allah will condemn him, and reject him and prepare for him awesome suffering. (Unjust killing of any human being, regardless of color, creed, religion or sex is a grievous offense that is tantamount to slaying the entire humankind (5:32). Hence, the offender shall be punished accordingly. Intentional murder of any human being is also a crime against the State, therefore, the State would be responsible for tracing, arresting and trying the offender in a court of law. QISAS = the duty of tracing an offender for just recompense).

4:94 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When you go forth in the Cause of Allah (to meet the armed challenge), use your discernment. And do not say, out of a desire for the fleeting gains of this worldly life, to anyone who offers you the greeting of peace, “You are not a believer.” For with Allah are abundant gains. Remember, once you were ignorant, and you were weak like the disbelievers are now. Allah has been Gracious to you, so be gracious to His servants (9:128, 90:17). Use your discernment. Allah is always Aware of what you do.

4:95 Those believers who sit back, except for a disability, are not equal in ranks to those who strive with their wealth and person in the Cause of Allah. Allah has granted a grade higher to those who strive with their wealth and person than that granted those who remain passive. Although Allah has promised the ultimate good to all believers, yet Allah has exalted with immense reward those who strive, above the ones who sit back at home.

4:96 The higher ranks come from Him, as well as forgiveness and Grace. Allah is ever Forgiving, Merciful.

4:97 As for those who wrong their own “Self” by not striving until the angels (the Universal Laws of death) approach them, they are asked, “What kept you occupied?” They say, “We were weak and oppressed in the land.” The angels say, “ Was not the earth of Allah spacious enough for you to migrate?” As for such, their habitation will be Hell, a miserable destination.

4:98 Exempted are the feeble, whether men or women, and children who are unable to devise a plan and to find a way out.

4:99 There is room in Allah’s Law for absolving their inabilities. Allah is indeed the Absolver of imperfections, Forgiver.

4:100 Anyone who emigrates in the Cause of Allah, will find that Allah has placed refuge and abundance in the earth. Whoever forsakes his home, as 'An immigrant to Allah and His Messenger', and death overtakes him, his reward is then incumbent upon Allah. Allah is ever Forgiving, Merciful.

4:101 When you are traveling through the earth, there is no blame on you if you shorten the congregations of prayers, if you fear that the rejecters of the Truth may attack you. Verily, the rejecters are an open enemy to you.

4:102 O Messenger! When you are with them and establish the congregations of prayers for them, let some of you stand guard, and let them hold their weapons standing with you as you prostrate. Then let the other group who has not prayed take their turn praying with you, while the others stand guard and hold their weapons. The disbelievers wish to see you neglect your weapons and equipment, and ambush you once and for all. You commit no error, if you are hampered by rain or

injury, by putting down your weapons. But always be fully prepared against danger. Verily, Allah has readied a humiliating suffering for those who deny the Truth.

4:103 Be mindful of Allah's Commands whatever state you are in, standing, sitting or lying down. And when you are once again secure, establish the congregations of Salat. Joining the congregations of Salat at the times appointed by the Central Authority is a duty unto believers.

4:104 Do not show weakness in pursuing the enemy. If you suffer hardship they too suffer hardship, but you have hope to receive Allah's reward that they cannot rightfully hope. Allah is the Knower, the Wise.

4:105 We have sent down the Book to you (O Prophet) in Absolute Truth. Rule and judge among people according to what Allah has shown you (in this Revelation). You shall not advocate for those who are known to have violated their pledges and trusts and betrayed the works assigned to them.

4:106 Pray to Allah that the betrayers and the hypocrites mend their ways and thus become worthy of forgiveness (4:81.) Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

4:107 (You may pray for their guidance but) do not plead on behalf of the people who have betrayed their own "Self". Allah loves not one who drags down his own humanity by betraying his pledges, duties and trusts.

4:108 They seek to hide from people and do not seek to hide from Allah! He is with them when they discuss and plot by night that which He dislikes. And Allah encompasses with His Knowledge all they do.

4:109 You people contend on their behalf in this world. But who will contend with Allah for them on the Resurrection Day? Or who will be their defender?

4:110 Anyone who transgresses against his or her own "Self", then seeks Allah's forgiveness, will find Allah Forgiving, Merciful. (The way to achieve Allah's forgiveness is repentance, taking corrective action and doing good deeds for others 4:17, 11:114).

4:111 Whoever earns a violation against the Permanent Values given in the Qur'an does it against, and drags down, his own "Self". Allah, the Knower, the Wise imparts this information to you.

4:112 And whoever commits a fault or such violation, but throws the blame on the innocent, burdens himself with slander and a clear violation that drags the "Self" down.

4:113 But for the Grace of Allah upon you (O Prophet), a party among them were bent upon diverting you, but they only misled themselves. They cannot hurt you at all. He has given you the Law and the Logic behind it. He teaches you that which you knew not. Contrary to blind faith, the use of Reason empowers you with Conviction (12:108). The Grace of Allah upon you is Infinite.

4:114 There is no good in much of their secret conferences. Most meetings that take place behind closed doors are detrimental to humanity. However, whoever arranges meetings that discuss matters of social welfare, economic equity, human resource development, just legislation and reconciliation of conflicts seeking Allah's Approval, We shall bestow upon him / her a great Reward.

4:115 One who opposes the Messenger, dissents and treads contrary to the way of the believers, after the Guidance has been made plain to him, We shall let him continue in his chosen direction, and expose him to Hell, a miserable destination.

4:116 Allah will not forgive SHIRK (choosing authorities besides Him) though He may forgive other transgressions according to His Law of forgiveness. Whoever commits SHIRK, has wandered far astray (4:48).

[Associating others with Allah in matters of obedience, subservience, worship and subjugation, is no less than choosing parallel authorities (114:2-3). This is an error that downgrades the human "Self" to the extent that it bars it from rising to the higher levels of self-actualization (9:113). And the “Self” then faces an Insurmountable Barrier to evolution in both lives (22:51, 79:39].

4:117 (Think how this attitude downgrades the human "Self".) Some of them stoop so low that they make seductive statues of females and worship them! In fact, they worship Satan, their selfish desire that rebels against the Divine Values.

4:118 Allah has rejected Satan for saying, “Verily, of your servants I will take my due share.” (A great many people follow their own Satans (45:23) and the clergy eats a portion from their wealth in the name of God; that is Satan’s share (9:31, 9:34).

4:119 Satan (Iblis) in allegorical terms had said, “I surely will lead them astray, I will entice them, confound them.” (2:34-36, 7:11, 15:30-32, 17:62, 18:50, 20:116, 38:74). According to Satan’s promise, these representatives of his mislead men and women away from the Qur’an, and confound them with ritualism and superstitions, such as magic, dreams, astrology, amulets, numerology, ghoul, exorcism, and vain beliefs. Marking cattle's ears, choosing red cows or black goats for specific sacrifices, are superstitions that the clergy propagates. They try to present the Laws of Allah operative in the World of Creation in a distorted fashion. They assign miracles to living or dead "saints" ignoring the Law of Cause and Effect (4:51, 4:60). Whoever befriends this handiwork of Satan, has ignored Allah. Such a person is verily a loser and his loss is manifest.

4:120 (You have seen how associating partners with Allah, and ignoring the Qur’an in favor of human dogmas, drag the "Self" down to subhuman levels.) You will find these agents of Satan dispensing paradise and hell to their followers in outright deception (false hopes and vain desires such as seventy two beauties etc.).

4:121 These custodians of man-made dogmas and their followers will have their dwelling in Hell with no EXIT signs.

4:122 On the other hand, We shall soon admit those who attain belief, and work to improve the lot of humanity, to the Gardens beneath which rivers flow. They will abide therein forever. This is the unwavering Promise of Allah; and who can be truer in word than Allah?

4:123 (The clergy have borrowed many of their dogmas from the previous nations.) But neither your wishful thinking, nor the wishful thinking of some People of the Book shall be of any avail. Whoever lives contrary to the Divine Laws, will have the recompense for it. And he or she will find, besides Allah, no protector and helper.

4:124 And whoever fulfills the needs of the people whether male or female, and is a believer, will enter Paradise. And not the least injustice will be done to them (not amounting to the ‘speck on a date-stone’ 4:53, 35:13).

4:125 Who has a better DEEN (System of Life) than the one who submits completely to Allah, and thus becomes a benefactor of humanity? Such a person is, in fact, following the Way of Abraham, the upright whom Allah chose for friend.

4:126 Unto Allah belongs all that is in the Highs and all that is in the Lows; and indeed Allah encompasses all things.

4:127 (It is imperative to realize that women are no less a part of the society. Moreover, they are the custodians of the future generations like a garden that bears flowery plants 2:223). They ask you to enlighten them further about the Laws concerning women (O Prophet). Say, “Allah Himself enlightens you about the Laws concerning them, and the Book which has been recited to you conveys the decree. (You shall be especially kind to women who are widowed, orphaned, or left helpless for any reason 2:83, 2:215, 4:3, 2:240, 8:41). You shall restore the rights of the orphaned women to whom you give not what is ordained (their due marital gifts) when you wish to marry them. And Allah decrees about helpless children, and your duty to treat orphans in a most kind manner. And whatever good you may do, behold, Allah is ever Aware.”

4:128 If a woman experiences ill-treatment from her husband or fears that he might turn away from her, there should be no hesitation in taking corrective action and resolving the matter between them amicably. Conciliation is best. Selfishness is ever present in human psyche. And if you take care to benefit each other and be mindful of Allah, verily Allah is ever Aware of all you do. (Allah, the Cognizant shows you the best way (2:228-234, 4:3, 4:19, 4:35, 4:128, 33:49, 58:1 65:1-4).

4:129 Men who have been permitted a second wife for post-war exigencies (4:3) must understand that: You will not be able to deal equally between your wives however much you wish. But turn not altogether away from one, leaving her as if in suspense between having and not having a husband. Fulfill the rights of each one of them and be mindful of Allah. Verily, Allah is ever Forgiving, Merciful. (Your effort is seen 53:40, and He is the Absolver of your imperfections).

4:130 If the couple separate, Allah will provide for each one of them from His Abundance. Allah is Infinite, Wise. (The Divinely Ordained System is versatile enough to accommodate all circumstances).

4:131 And to Allah belong all things in the Highs and all things in the Lows. We directed those who received the Scripture before you, and We direct you to be mindful of Allah’s Laws (so that your society operates as smoothly as the Universe is operating). And if you reject the Truth, know that all things in the heavens and all things in the earth belong to Allah. Allah is Self-Sufficient, Owner of Praise.

4:132 Unto Allah belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. And Allah is Sufficient as Guardian (to carry through all affairs of the Universe).

4:133 If He wills, He can cause you to disappear O Mankind! And bring forth other beings in your stead. Indeed, Allah is Able to do that.

4:134 Whoever desires the reward of the world, let him know that with Allah is the reward of the world and the Hereafter. Allah is ever Hearer, Seer. (Obedience to His Commands ensures success in both worlds).

4:135 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Stand out firmly for justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it is against yourselves, your parents and your relatives, and whether the case is of a rich person or a poor person. Allah is nearer to them than you are; His Law comes first. Follow not your emotions lest you fall short of justice. If you distort your testimony or turn away from this Command, Allah is Aware of all your actions.

4:136 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! (and call yourselves Muslims)! Believe in Allah and His Messenger, and the Book He has revealed to His Messenger, and ( the fact that He revealed) the Scripture before. (Belief to the point of Conviction can only be attained through reason and not as a birth right 12:108). One who denies Allah, and His Angels, and His Books, and His Messengers, and the Last Day, has gone far astray.

4:137 Those who believe, then disbelieve and again believe, then disbelieve, and thus grow stubborn in denial of the Truth, Allah will not forgive them, nor will He intervene to walk them through to the Way.

4:138 Give the tiding to such hypocrites that grievous suffering awaits them.

4:139 Those who ally themselves with the rejecters of the Truth instead of the believers, do they seek honor among them? All Dignity, Honor and Power belong to, and come from, Allah (3:25, 35:10, 63:8).

4:140 He has already revealed unto you in the Book that, when you hear the Revelations of Allah rejected and ridiculed, sit not with them unless they engage in some other conversation (4:63, 6:68). Otherwise you shall bear similar guilt as they bear. Allah will gather hypocrites and rejecters together, all of them, into Hell.

4:141 (The hypocrites adopt the opportunistic attitude.) They watch you and wait. If a victory comes to you from Allah, they say, “Weren’t we with you?” And if the rejecters get a portion of success, they say, “Did we not side with you and protect you from the believers?” Allah will judge between you all on the Day of Resurrection. Allah will not give the rejecters (of the Qur’an) any way of success against the true believers in the Qur’an.

4:142 The hypocrites seek to deceive Allah, but it is Allah’s Law that such people deceive themselves (2:9). When they stand up for prayers, they do so reluctantly and only to be seen by people, and rarely do they think of Allah.

4:143 Swaying between this and that, belonging neither to these nor to those. Anyone who strays according to Allah's Law of Guidance, you will not find a way for him (Law of Guidance 4:88).

4:144 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not take the rejecters for your allies instead of the believers. Do you wish to provide a clear proof to Allah against yourselves?

4:145 Verily, the hypocrites will abide in the lowest pit of the Fire and you will find no helper for them.

4:146 Except those who repent by returning to the Right Path and make mends and hold fast to Allah's Guidance in all sincerity. Those are with the believers. Allah will soon grant the believers a reward of immense value.

4:147 Why should Allah punish you if you are practically grateful in spending His Bounties on others and truly believe in His Laws? Allah is Appreciative, Knower.

4:148 Allah does not love loud unpleasant speech except by one who has been wronged. Allah is ever Hearer, Knower.

4:149 If you contribute to the society, whether openly or secretly, and pardon someone's fault, know that Allah is Pardoner, Powerful. He absolves your individual and societal imperfections, and He has appointed due measure for all things.

4:150 Those who deny Allah and His Messengers, or seek to make distinction between Allah and His Messengers, and say, "We believe in some and reject some." (The first part of the verse refers to those who believe in God as the Creator, but not as the Law-Giver 29:61-63).

4:151 Such are the real disbelievers. And for deniers of the Truth We have readied a humiliating retribution.

4:152 And those who believe in Allah and His Messengers, in word and action, and understand that all Messengers were one in Purpose, We shall soon give them their rewards. Allah is ever Forgiving, Merciful.

4:153 (O Prophet) People of the Scripture ask you to bring a published book from the sky. They made a greater demand to Moses when they said, "Show us Allah face to face". And their psyche was such that when a bolt of lightning struck around them, they fell in fear (2:55). They had displaced the true belief with falsehood. After that, they chose the calf for worship although they had seen the Manifest Truth. Yet, We pardoned them and gave Moses evident authority (as a blessing for their guidance).

4:154 Then We made a Covenant with them at the raised Mount Sinai as a witness. We said to them, "Enter the gate of the town humbly (2:63)." And We said to them, "Do not violate the Sabbath." Indeed We had made with them a Solemn Covenant.

4:155 They incurred condemnation for breaking their Covenant, rejecting Allah's Revelations, and killing the Prophets wrongfully. And for saying, "Our hearts are wrapped up; we have made up our minds." Nay, Allah's Law sets the seal on their hearts because of their persistent denial. They lost their faculties of reasoning. So they do not see the Truth, except a few.

4:156 And for their disbelief to the extent that they brought a terrible charge against Mary.

4:157 And for claiming, "We killed the Messiah Jesus son of Mary, Allah's Messenger." They never killed him and never crucified him. But it appeared so to them and the matter remained dubious to them. Those who hold conflicting views on this issue are indeed confused. They have no real knowledge but they are following mere conjecture. Very certainly, they never killed him.

4:158 Nay, Allah exalted him unto Himself. (They had plotted thinking that crucifixion was a death of dishonor. But Allah raised him in honor). Allah is Almighty, Wise.

4:159 Everyone among the People of the Book must believe before dying, in the truth just stated. Jesus will be a witness against them on the Day of Resurrection (that he was neither crucified nor raised to the heavens. God is not confined to the Heavens).

4:160 Due to the transgressions of the Jews We had forbidden them good things that were before allowed to them, and because of their consistent hindering from the Way of Allah.

4:161 Their clergy made usury permissible although it was forbidden, and they devoured the wealth of people with falsification. We have readied for the rejecters grievous suffering.

4:162 Among them (the Jews) are those who are well founded in knowledge. And have attained conviction in what has been revealed to you, and in what was revealed before you. They are supporters of the Divine System and of the Just Economic Order, believers in Allah and in the Last Day. We shall soon give them an immense reward. (Islam is for all humanity. Any prior affiliations are irrelevant 2:62, 3:19, 4:125).

4:163 We have sent you the Revelation as We sent it to Noah and the Prophets after him. We sent Revelations to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and his progeny (the Tribes), Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, and Solomon; and to David We gave the Psalms.

4:164 We sent Our Messengers to all nations with a Uniform Message. We have told you the stories of some in the Qur’an, of the others We have not. (However, all of them were assigned a Common Mission). Allah spoke the same to Moses.

4:165 All Messengers gave good news, as well as warning, so that humans won’t have an argument against God, after the Messengers conveyed to them the Guidance. Allah is Almighty, Wise.

4:166 Allah bears witness concerning what He has revealed to you. With His Own Knowledge He has revealed it. If you reflect on the Order in the Universe, you shall find that His angels, the Universal Laws, bear witness. And Allah is Sufficient Witness.

4:167 Those who deny such obvious Reality and try to hinder from the Way of Allah, have wandered far astray.

4:168 Those who indulge in such blatant denial and hinder people from Allah’s Way, are wrongdoers. They are violating one of the basic human rights i.e. that of attaining knowledge (4:167). According to the Law of Requital, they block their own way to forgiveness and guidance.

4:169 The only way the Divine Law leaves open for them is the way to Hell. And it is easy for Allah.

4:170 O People! The Messenger has come to you with Truth from your Lord. If you believe in him, it is good for you. If you deny, know that to Allah belongs everything in the heavens and the earth. Allah is All Knowing, All Wise. (Following His Commands brings you to harmony with the Universe).

4:171 O People of the Scripture! Do not exaggerate in your religion. Say nothing about God except the truth. The Messiah Jesus son of Mary was a Messenger of Allah, the fulfillment of His Word to Mary, created according to the Laws of Creation and given free will from the Divine Energy (like all human beings 15:29, 32:7-9, 38:72). Believe in Allah and His Messengers, and say not: “Three".

Cease!
It is for your own good. God is but One God. Far removed it is from His Supreme Majesty that He should have a son. Everything in the Highs and everything in the Lows belongs to Him. He is the Self-Sufficient Sustainer of the Universe (2:255).

4:172 Never was the Messiah too proud to serve Allah, nor the angels nearest to Him shy from obeying Him. Whoever shuns His service and is proud, He will assemble all unto Him.

4:173 Allah will give rewards and add of His Bounty on those who attain belief and contribute to the society. On the other hand, His Law of Requital will dispense an awful doom to those who were scornful and proud. And they will find no one besides Allah, to protect or help them.

4:174 O Humankind! There has come to you a Convincing Proof from your Lord, and We have sent unto you a profound Beacon of Light.

4:175 Allah will admit into His Grace those who believe in Him and hold fast to His Commands, and facilitate for them the Straight Road to Him.

4:176 They ask you about the inheritance of a person who is survived by neither ascendants nor descendants. If one dies and leaves no children, and he had a sister, she gets half the inheritance. If she dies first, he inherits from her if she left no children. If there were two sisters they get two-thirds of the inheritance, if there are sisters and brothers, the brother would get twice the share of the sister for reasons already explained (2:80, 4:11). Allah clarifies the Laws so that you might not go astray. Allah is the Knower of all things.

**Surah 5 – Al Maaedah – The Table Spread**

This is the fifth Surah of the Qur'an and it has 120 verses. (Establishment of the Divine System ensures Bounties from the Heavens on everyone's table spread.)

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

5:1 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Fulfill your pledges and obligations. Permitted for you is the flesh of every beast that eats plants, except what is specifically forbidden in the Book. Allah has ordained that all hunting is prohibited during Hajj. Verily, Allah Ordains as He deems fit.

5:2 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not violate the symbols set up by Allah, nor the Sacred Months (2:194), nor the gifts, nor the camels for use as transport or sacrifice, nor the garlands marking them, nor the people who proceed to the Sacred Sanctuary, Ka'bah, seeking Allah's Blessings and Approval. When you have completed the Hajj, you are free to hunt. Let not your hatred of a people lead you into transgression, because they prevented you from going to the Sacred Masjid (48:25). Help one another in acts of collective benefit and in being mindful of Allah, and do not help one another in deeds that hurt humanity and in creating a wedge between people. Be mindful of Allah's Laws. His Law of Requital is strong in grasping.

5:3 Forbidden for you (2:173) for dietary consumption are:
- Any Animal that dies of itself.

- Blood.
- The flesh of swine.
- And anything (not just meat) that has been dedicated to any other than Allah (such as an idol, grave or saint).
- Any Animal that has been strangled to death.
- Beaten to death.
- Dies by falling from height.
- Gored to death by horns.
- Animal eaten by a wild animal unless you are able to slaughter it while it is still alive.
-That which is sacrificed on altars (devotional stones or blocks in shrines considered sacred).

Also forbidden is dividing the meat through raffling and games of chance (2:219, 5:90). This Day, the rejecting opponents have given up the hope of eradicating your DEEN, System of Life. Clear distinction in matters of the Lawful and the Unlawful draws a tangible line between their ways and your way. Fear them not but fear Me. This Day, I have perfected your DEEN for you, completed My favor upon you, and chosen for you Islam as the System of Life. (There is no hardship in Islam 2:185). Therefore, if one is forced by hunger to consume the Unlawful, with no intention of exceeding the limits, Allah is indeed Forgiving, Merciful.

5:4 They ask you (O Prophet) what foods are Permissible. Tell them all good things of life are Lawful to you. As for the hunting animals, the catch of your trained dogs and falcons, as Allah has taught you, is Permissible. Mention Allah's name thereupon. Always be mindful of Allah's Laws. His Law of Requital is swift in reckoning.

5:5 This Day, all good food of your choice is made Lawful for you. The food of the People of the Scripture is Lawful for you. And your food is Lawful for them. You are permitted to marry chaste women of the People of the Scripture, (provided they do not indulge in SHIRK i.e. not associate anyone with Allah 2:221). You are permitted to marry the virtuous, chaste women among the believers and the virtuous, chaste women of those who were given the Scripture before. You must give your brides a generous marital gift and live with them in honor, not in fornication as secret lovers. (It must be an honest wedlock 4:24). Anyone who rejects belief, all his work will go vain and he will be among the losers in the Hereafter.

5:6 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When you congregate for Salat, wash your faces and your forearms, hands to the elbows. Lightly rub you heads and your feet to the ankles. If you are in a state of ceremonial impurity, bathe your whole body. But, if you are ill or traveling, or coming from the privy, or are in a state of ceremonial impurity and find no water, then take clean sand or earth and lightly rub your faces and hands. (This will help you prepare mentally for congregational prayer 4:43). Allah does not wish to place upon you any difficulty, but to make you clean and to perfect His blessings upon you, that you be grateful.

5:7 Remember Allah's Blessing (Guidance) upon you and His Covenant binding upon you when you said, “We hear and obey” (1:4-5). Be mindful of Allah. Allah is fully Aware of what is in the hearts.

5:8 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be upholders of justice for the sake of Allah as witnesses to the truth. Let not the hatred of any people move you away from justice. Deal justly. That is closer to being upright. Be mindful of your duty to Allah. Verily, Allah is fully Aware of what you do.

5:9 Allah promises the protection of forgiveness and a Great Reward to those who attain belief and do works that fulfill the needs of people and augment the being of society.

5:10 On the other hand are those who reject Our Revelations openly, or deny them in action. They are the companions of the Insurmountable Barrier. (“Selves" that fail to develop, are unfit to move up to the higher levels of existence, so they merely survive instead of achieving true immortality 69:27).

5:11 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Remember the Blessing of Allah. There were people who had aggressive designs against you but He withheld their hands from you. (Due preparation against danger is a strong deterrent 4:71, 8:60). Remain mindful of Allah’s Laws. Then, in Allah let believers put their trust.

5:12 Indeed Allah made a Covenant with the Children of Israel. We appointed twelve leaders among them. Allah said to them, "I am with you so long as you follow the Divine Commands, spend your wealth for the community, believe in My Messengers, assist them, and give a beautiful loan to Allah (that is paid back to you manifold in both lives 2:261). I will absolve your imperfections, help you create balance in the society and admit you to Gardens with rivers flowing beneath. But, whoever among you disbelieves after this, will go astray from the Right Path."

5:13 When they broke their Promise, We rejected them and Our Law caused their hearts to harden. So, now they change words from their context and ignore a good part of the Message, forgetting what they were told to bear in mind. (O Prophet) You will not cease to discover betrayal from all but a few of them. Pardon them and forbear. Allah loves those who are kind, benefic.

5:14 We also made a Covenant with those who say, “We are Christians.” But they ignored a good part of the Message that was sent to them and forgot what they were told to bear in mind. As a result, Our Law has caused enmity and hatred among them till the Resurrection Day, when Allah will inform them of what they contrive. (Rivalry based upon Sectarianism and Nationalism, a natural consequence of deviating from the True Message, whether people call themselves Jews, Christians or Muslims).

5:15 O People of the Book! Now has come to you Our Messenger, to make clear to you much of what you have been concealing from yourselves and others. He ignores much of the irrelevant accounts and pardons much of your misdeeds. Now has come to you from Allah a Beacon of Light and a Clear Book.

5:16 Through this Book Allah guides to paths of Peace, those who seek His Approval. He brings them out of darkness into the Light of His Grace, and guides them to the Straight Path.

5:17 They indeed have denied the Truth who say, “God is the Messiah, son of Mary.” Say, "Who could oppose God if He willed to annihilate the Messiah son of Mary, and his mother and everyone on earth, all of them?" Allah’s is the Dominion of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them. He creates all things according to His Laws. And Allah has Power over all things and events.

5:18 Jews and Christians say, "We are God's children and his loved ones". Ask them "Why does He then, task you to retribution for your transgressions?" Nay, you are but human beings of His creating. He forgives and punishes according to His Laws. The Dominion of the heavens and the earth and all that is in between them, belongs to Allah. To Him is the Final Destination of all.

5:19 O People of the Scripture! Our Messenger has come to you, to make the Truth clear, after an interval without Messengers. Lest you say, “No Messenger came to us to give good news and to warn.” Now has come to you the giver of glad tiding and warning. Allah has Power over all things and events.

5:20 Moses told his people, “Remember Allah's Blessings that He raised Prophets among you and made you your own masters. And He gave you what He had not given to any other peoples.”

5:21 “Enter the Sacred Land that Allah has decreed for you as long as you hold fast to His Laws. But, if you turn back in flight, you will be overthrown to your own ruin.” (Sacred Land = Canaan = Palestine, 2:125, 6:137, 12:58, 12:94, 21:71, 23:50, 26:59, 29:26, 30:3, 44:3, Introduction to Surahs: 12, 14, 19).

5:22 They said to Moses, "In this land are ferocious people. Never shall we enter it until they leave. If they leave, than we will enter.”

5:23 Then two men who feared violating Allah’s Command, and whom Allah had blessed, said, “Enter the gate daringly, and you will be in command of the situation and will be victorious. Put your trust in Allah if you are believers.” (The two men were Joshua and Caleb. Bible; Numbers xiv, 6-30).

5:24 They said, "O' Moses! We shall never enter the land while they are in it. You and your Lord should go and fight, while we sit here.”

5:25 Moses said, "My Lord! I have power only over myself and my brother, allow us to part ways from those who keep drifting away from the Commands.”

5:26 Their Lord said, “This land will be forbidden for them for forty years. They will wander in the earth, bewildered. So grieve not over these people who keep drifting away from the Right Path.”

5:27 [Among mankind there always have been those who submit and those who transgress. The Children of Israel enjoyed great Divine Blessings, but for their repeated transgressions they were chastised (2:259, 17:5-6) and Allah’s Bounty of Prophethood, in His Infinite Wisdom, moved away from the Children of Israel to the Children of Ishmael, among whom was raised Muhammad, the Final Prophet and Messenger of Allah. The dire opposition of Jews and Christians to the Final Messenger is now alluded to, in the following verses, in reference to the famous story of the two brothers, Abel (Haabil) and Cain (Qaabil)]. (O Messenger) Tell them the true story of the two descendants of Adam. Each of them made an offering, and they thought that it was accepted from one of them, but not from the other. The latter, out of jealousy, said, " Surely I will kill you.” The former said, “Allah accepts every action of the righteous like an accepted offering.”

5:28 “If you extend your hand to kill me, I won't extend my hand against you to kill you. I fear Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.”

5:29 “I would rather have you carry two sins. First, of slaying me, and second, of slaying the person inside you, and be among the dwellers of the Fire. That is the reward for the wrongdoers.”

5:30 His ego led him into killing his brother. He killed him and became a loser.

5:31 Allah then sent a raven scratching up the soil, to allude to him that he might have concealed and ignored the imperfections of his brother. He said, “Oh, I failed even to be like this raven to conceal my brother’s imperfections!” Then he became full of regrets. (‘Sauaat’ = Imperfections, faults 7:20-22)

5:32 On that account, We decreed to the Children of Israel the Eternal Moral Ordinance for all humanity (2:178) that whoever kills a human being, unless it is in the course of justice for murder or bloody crimes on the earth, it shall be as if he killed all mankind. And whoever saves one life it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind. Our Messengers came to people with clear Truth, yet many of them continued to transgress in the earth.

5:33 The just punishment for people who make war on Allah and His Messenger and commit bloody crimes on earth, is being dispensed by the Divine Law of Requital. They are being slain, crucified, immobilized in great numbers, or are being entirely banished from the face of the earth. Such is their disgrace in this world, and an awful suffering awaits them in the Hereafter.

(The use of present tense in this verse indicates that it is not a decree of Law. In 7:124 the use of ‘qat’a’ pertains to a threat in the future tense, and then it emanates from Pharaoh, tyranny personified. Only the Divine System of life can ensure peace and security in the world 2:27, 2:257, 3:147, 4:125, 26:89).

5:34 Unless the corruptors repent before you become more powerful than they are. (Peace will prevail when you believers become more powerful than the criminals). Know that Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

5:35 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be mindful of Allah and seek to come closer to Him by obeying His Commands, and strive hard in His Cause so that you may truly prosper.

5:36 (Those who reject the Revelation, exclude themselves from taking part in the establishment of the Ideal Society). If the rejecters possessed everything on earth and twice as much, and offered it as ransom to spare them from the retribution on the Day of Resurrection, it will not be accepted from them. For them is a painful doom.

5:37 They will wish to come out of the Fire, but they will not be able to come out of it. Theirs will be a lasting punishment.

5:38 (Theft is a crime that steals away the sense of security from a society). A habitual thief, male or female, must have their ability (to steal) cut off. This is the reward for their doings, and a deterrent from Allah. Allah is Almighty, Wise.

[For QAT’A, the so-called cutting of hands, please see 12:31. ‘Yadd’ = Hand = Ability. ‘Allah’s hand’ at many places in the Qur’an, of course, denotes His Power and Authority. So, consider all circumstances with wisdom, and take measures to prevent this crime in the society]

5:39 Whoever repents after the crime and makes amends, surely, Allah grants him pardon. Verily, Allah is Forgiving, Merciful. (If the hands are cut off, where are the making amends, pardon and mercy?)

5:40 Do you not know that Allah's is the Dominion of the heavens and the earth? He is the Law-giving Authority. He punishes and forgives according to His Law of Requital. Allah has Control over all things and He has appointed due measure for all things.

5:41 O Messenger! Let not those grieve you who run to disbelief, saying, "We believe," from their mouths, while their hearts do not believe. And grieve not about those Jews who listen only to fabricate lies. They listen and go to their folk who have never met with you. Then they distort the words out of context and tell others to accept only a part and reject a part. You can do nothing to help those who decide to go astray. Guidance and straying depend upon the Laws of Allah (4:88). Allah does not intervene to purify the hearts of such people. For those who go astray, there is disgrace in this world and an awful punishment in the Hereafter.

5:42 They are upholders of falsehood and they make wealth by unfair means. They get bribed into spying. If they come to you asking to judge among them, the choice to accept or reject their request is yours. You have the right to disclaim jurisdiction since they have not yet accepted the Qur'an and they have the Torah. If you disclaim jurisdiction they cannot harm you at all. However, if you decide to judge among them, do so equitably. Allah loves the equitable.

5:43 Why do they ask you to act as a judge among them when they have the Torah, containing Allah's Law and they disregard it? They are not believers.

5:44 We did send down the Torah containing guidance and a light. By it the Prophets who always sincerely submitted to Allah, judged the Jews. And the rabbis and the priests judged according to Allah's Scripture as they were commanded to observe. For to them was entrusted the protection of Allah's Book, and they were witnesses to it. So, fear not people, but fear Me and do not trade away My Revelations for petty gains. Whoever does not judge and rule according to what Allah has Revealed, such are the disbelievers.

5:45 For Jews, We had decreed in the Torah, "Life for life, eye for eye, nose for nose, ear for ear, tooth for tooth, and equal injury for injury". If one forgoes retaliation by way of charity, it shall absolve his or her imperfections. Whoever does not judge or rule according to what Allah has Revealed, such are the wrongdoers. (The Final Revelation of Allah, the Qur'an has updated Laws for all humanity for all Times. Exodus in the Bible does not leave room for forgiveness on the subject).

5:46 And after them We caused Jesus, son of Mary, to follow in their footsteps, confirming the Divine Origin of what was revealed before him. We gave him the Gospel in which there was guidance and a light, and it confirmed the Divine Origin of what was revealed before it in the Torah, a guidance and admonition to those who wished to live upright.

5:47 Let the People of the Gospel judge by what Allah has revealed therein. Those who fail to judge according to Allah's Revelation are drifters from the Right Path.

5:48 To you (O Messenger) We have sent the Book in Sure Truth confirming the Divine Origin of whatever Scripture was before it. The Qur'an is the Watcher over the old Scriptures and guards the Truth in them. So, Judge between people by that which Allah has revealed to you and follow not their wishes away from the Truth that has come to you. Now has come to all of you the Divine Law, and a traced-out Way. If Allah had willed, He could have made all of you humans a single people. But, He decided to let you choose your own path after showing you the Truth, and thus test yourselves. Outdo one another in actions that serve humanity and thus grow your "Self". To Allah is your final Destination, of all of you. Then He will make you understand where you differ.

5:49 Rule and judge between people by what Allah has revealed. Do not follow their desires giving in to their demands, lest they divert you from what Allah has revealed to you. If they turn away from the Ultimate Truth, know that Allah's Law of Requital is going to chastise them for trailing behind in attaining belief and for their previous transgressions. A great many people choose to drift away from the Right Path.

5:50 Do they want to turn back to the Ways of Ignorance? Who can provide more equitable rules than Allah to a people who have attained Conviction in the Truth?

5:51 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! (Since they deny the Final Revelation that is the Constitution of your state). Do not take the Jews and Christians as your allies. They are allies one to another. He among you who takes them for allies is one of them. Allah does not guide those who displace Command with desire.

5:52 You will see those who harbor doubt in their hearts running to them saying, "We fear that a change of fortune may befall us." But, Allah will bring you victory, or His Command will come to pass and they will regret what they harbored in their hearts.

5:53 The believers will then wonder: "Are these the same people who swore by Allah that they were with the believers?" Eventually, all their deeds will go to waste and they will be great losers.

5:54 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! If you revert from your DEEN Allah will bring in your place people whom He loves and who love Him. They will be kind to the believers, and stern with the rejecters. They will strive in the Cause of Allah without fear of any blame. Such is the Bounty of Allah that He gives according to His Laws. He is Infinite, All Knowing.

5:55 Your real friends and protectors are Allah, His Messenger and those believers who establish the Divine System, set up the equitable Economic Order and humble themselves before Allah's Commands.

5:56 Those who ally themselves with Allah and His Messenger and the believers, belong in the party of Allah. Absolutely they are the victorious.

5:57 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not take for allies, some of the people who were given the Scripture before you, and the rejecters who mock and ridicule your Religion. Be mindful of Allah's Commands if you are indeed believers.

5:58 When you call to prayer, they mock at it and make a jest of it, simply because they are a people who do not use reason. (They know not that the call with its clearest Mission Statement is unique in the world and speaks volumes of the conviction behind it).

5:59 Say, "O People of the Scripture! Do you not blame us because we believe in God, and that which is revealed to us and that which was revealed before? And because most of you are drifting away from the Right Direction?"

5:60 Say, "Shall I point out to you something much worse for retribution with Allah? Worse is the case of those whom Allah has rejected, and His Law of Requital hits them. And whom Allah's Law relegated from the honorable stature of humanity and they started behaving like apes and swine (2:65). And they fell into becoming the slaves of TAGHOOT (tyrants and the priesthood of any religion 4:51). Such are in worse plight, and farther astray than the mockers."

5:61 When they come to you O believers, they say, "We believe". In fact they come in disbelief and depart in disbelief. Allah knows best what they conceal.

5:62 You will see many of them race towards actions that drag down the human potential, create division in the society and they earn wealth through illicit means. Indeed condemnable is what they do.

5:63 Why don't the rabbis and the priests forbid them from their down-grading assertions and illicit earnings? Indeed condemnable is what they manufacture. (A great many religious leaders, rabbis, priests, monks, mullahs, yogis, and mystics devour the wealth of people deceptively, and hinder them from the Way of Allah 9:34).

5:64 (The Divine System wants people to contribute to the society.) The Jews say, "Allah's hand is tied down." It is their hands that are tied down. Their uttering deprives them of Allah's Grace. His hands are wide open and He showers His Bounties according to His Laws. (O Prophet) Since the Revelation given to you by your Lord brings about a Benevolent Revolution in the society, people with vested interests hate it. Many of them plunge deeper into transgression and disbelief. Consequently, Our Law has sent down into their hearts and ranks animosity and hatred until the Day of Resurrection. Allah has put down the flames of war that they repeatedly ignited. They try to create corruption and disorder in the land and Allah does not love the corruptors.

5:65 If the People of the Scripture would believe in the Qur'an and be mindful of the Divine Laws, We would remit their sins from them and admit them into the Gardens of Bliss.

5:66 Had they stood fast by the Torah and the Gospel, and all the Revelation that was sent to them by their Lord, they would receive the blessings of the heavens and the earth. Among them are people who are moderate, but a great many of them follow a course that is evil.

5:67 O Messenger! Make known all that your Lord has revealed to you. If you do it not, then you have not fulfilled your duty of conveying His Message at all. Allah will protect you from people. Remember that Allah does not step in to guide those who refuse to acknowledge the Truth.

5:68 Say, "O People of the Scripture! You have no valid ground for your beliefs unless you uphold the Torah and the Gospel and all that has been revealed to you from your Lord." (The Truth in them has been incorporated into the Final Revelation). Yet all that has been revealed to you (O Prophet), by your Lord is bound to make many of them more stubborn in their arrogance and denial of the Truth. But grieve not for the disbelieving folk.

5:69 Those who attain belief (and call themselves Muslims) and those who are Jews, and the agnostics, and Christians; whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, and helps people, for them

shall be no fear from without, nor shall grief touch them from within. [ Verily, those who attain belief (and call themselves Muslims), and those who are Jews, and Christians and the agnostics, whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day and helps people, shall have their reward with their Sustainer. For them there shall be no fear from without, nor shall grief touch them from within. (2:62)

Note: Dear reader, I am not aware of any instance in the Qur'an where the use of TASREEF, the Big Picture could be more crucial than in the understanding of these verses, 2:62, 5:69. Respectfully speaking, some great commentators have misinterpreted this verse for not looking at other related verses. Please read on the Tasreef.

It is inconceivable that those who deny the Truth, whether they are the People of the Book or the idolaters, could get out of error till the Clear Proof Al-Qur'an comes to them (98:1-3).

-------- The non-Israelite Prophet liberates the People of the Book from the shackles of their man-made dogmas and brings them from darkness to Light ------------------ (7:157).

They say, "Be Jews or Christians, then you will be rightly guided." Say, "Nay, we follow the religion of Abraham, the upright. He associated no one with the One True God." And Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian (2:135).

O you who believe, say, "We believe in Allah and the Revelation that has been conveyed to us, and in what was sent down to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob as well as the tribal Israelite Prophets; and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and to other Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction among them since all of them were one in Purpose and they got their guidance from the One True God. And for Him, we are Muslims (2:136)."

So, if they come to believe in the way you believe, they will be rightly guided. But if they turn away, they will be falling into opposition and Allah will be Sufficient for you against them. He is the Hearer, Knower of all things and events (2:137). ]

5:70 We made a Covenant with the Children of Israel to follow the Commandments, and sent Messengers to them. Whenever We sent a Messenger to them with anything that clashed with their desires, some of them they rejected, and some they even killed.

5:71 They persisted in their violations thinking they could escape requital. As a consequence, they became blind and deaf to reason. But, there is plenty of room for forgiveness in Allah's Law. They took corrective actions and attained Allah's Mercy. Yet again, a great many of them faltered and fell blind and deaf. Allah is Seer of what people do.

5:72 Rejecters of the Truth certainly are those who proclaim that God is Messiah, son of Mary. The Messiah himself taught them, "O Children of Israel! You shall worship God, my Lord and your Lord." Whoever associates deities with Allah, for such Allah has forbidden Paradise and their abode is the Fire. For those who displace Truth with falsehood there will be no helpers.

5:73 And surely they disbelieve who say that God is one of three in a Trinity when there is no god whatever but the One God. Unless they desist from saying what they say, grievous suffering is bound to befall such of them as are bent upon denying the Truth.

5:74 Will they not rather turn to Allah and seek His forgiveness? For Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

5:75 The Messiah, son of Mary, was no other than a Messenger, like other Messengers before him who passed on. And his mother was a woman of truth. Both of them were human beings who had to eat food (like all other mortals). See how clearly We explain Our verses for them and note how they keep wandering in thought!

5:76 Say, “Would you worship in place of Allah that which possesses no power of harm or benefit to you?” Allah it is who is the Hearer, the Knower.

5:77 Say, “O People of the Book! Do not overstep the bounds of Truth in your religious beliefs. And do not follow the errant views of people who have gone astray long before, and led a great many others astray, and those who are still straying from the Even Way.

5:78 Those Children of Israel who were bent upon denying the Truth have already been condemned by the tongue of David and of Jesus, son of Mary. This because they rebelled and persisted in overstepping the bounds of what is right.

5:79 They restrained not one another from violating the Divine Values. Miserable indeed was their behavior.

5:80 Even now you see many of them allying themselves with the rejecters. Miserable indeed is what they send forth for their “Self”. Allah is displeased with them and in the doom will they abide forever.

5:81 If they had believed in Allah and the Prophet, and that which is revealed to him, they (the People of the Scripture) would not ally themselves with the rejecters. But a great many of them are drifting away from the Truth.

5:82 (O Prophet) You will find the most vehement of mankind in hostility to the believers to be the Jews and the idolaters. Closer in affection to the believers you will find those who say, "We are Christians." That is because there are among them priests and monks and because they are not given to arrogance.

5:83 When they listen to what has been revealed to the Messenger, you (O Prophet) see their eyes overflow with tears because of their recognition of the Truth. They say, "Our Lord! We accept it, so count us among the witnesses.

5:84 "Why should we not believe in Allah and that which has come to us of the Truth when we so fervently desire that Our Sustainer count us among the righteous?"

5:85 Allah has instantly rewarded them for saying this, Gardens underneath which rivers flow, to abide therein forever. That is the reward of the doers of good.

5:86 Whereas those who reject the Truth and belie Our Revelations, are companions of the Insurmountable Barrier. (Their “Self” faces ‘Jaheem’, a great hindrance to actualization.)

5:87 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not deprive yourselves of the good things of life that Allah has made Lawful to you. But commit no excesses. Allah does not love those who exceed the limits. (Self-mortification by ascetics, monks and mystics is not the way to ‘purify’ a ‘soul’).

5:88 Thus, partake of the Lawful, good things that Allah grants you as sustenance. And be conscious of Allah, in Whom you are believers.

5:89 Allah will not call you to account for vain utterances of your oaths. He will hold you accountable for your deliberate and intentional oaths. If you violate such oaths, that would be a transgression against your 'Self'. The expiation for that if you have violated an oath is: Feeding ten needy persons of what is standard for your own family, or the clothing them. Or, freeing one human being from bondage, whether it is slavery, extreme poverty, heavy debt, or oppression. If you do not have the means to do so, then observe Abstinence for three days, as in Ramadan. This is the expiation of your intentional oaths. But be mindful of your oaths. Allah explains His Messages, so that you might have cause to be grateful.

5:90 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Intoxicants, gambling and games of chance, sacrificing animals on stones i.e. altars of idols and idolatrous practices, and divining of the future by such means as arrows, raffles and omens, is all Satan's handiwork. Refrain from it that you may prosper.

5:91 By means of intoxicants and games of chance Satan, your rebellious and selfish desire, excites you to enmity and hatred among you and hinders you from being conscious of Allah and following the Divine System. Will you not then abstain?

5:92 You shall obey Allah and the Messenger, the Divine System that the Messenger has established, and be careful in this regard. If you turn away, it will be to your own detriment. Know that the duty of Our Messenger is just to convey the Message clearly.

5:93 Those who have believed and do works fruitful to the society, bear no guilt for what and how they eat and drink and partake (of the Lawful). Provided they augment their belief to the point of conviction and cease not helping the needy, and benefiting humanity. Allah loves the benefactors of humanity.

5:94 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! During Hajj, Allah may let you test your belief in privacy with some game or someone else's wandering livestock within easy reach of your hands and your arrows. Refrain from hunting it. Whoever crosses the limits after this, will face an awful requital.

5:95 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not kill animals of game while you are in the state of Pilgrimage. Whoever kills it intentionally, must send a Permissible domestic animal to the Ka'bah, as a gift for the needy. Two equitable persons will decide what domestic animal is equivalent to the game animal that was killed. They must ensure that the offering reaches the Ka'bah (for use by the needy pilgrims 22:28). Or for expiation, feed some poor persons at a cost equal to the cost of the animal. If someone has no means to do that, then Abstinence (for three days as in Ramadan. Three days of Abstinence would equal feeding ten poor persons (5:89). Allah has pardoned past violations. An appropriate court shall punish those who persist in violating this Law. Allah is Almighty, Able to requite.

5:96 Lawful to you is all water-game, the game of the sea and its food whether they are found in the sea, river, lake, or pond or jump out of them. This is decent provision for you and for those who are traveling to Hajj by sea. Do not pursue land-game during Pilgrimage. Be mindful of Allah to Whom you will be summoned.

5:97 Allah has appointed the Ka'bah, the Sacred House, a Standard for mankind, the Sacred Months (2:194), the gifts for pilgrims, and the offerings marked with garlands. Know that Allah is fully Aware of all things in the heavens and all things in the earth. And that Allah knows all things and events.

5:98 Beware that Allah's Law of Requital is ever vigilant. And Allah is Forgiving, Merciful. (So He has shown you how to become worthy of His Mercy).

5:99 The Messenger's duty is to convey the Message, and Allah knows what you declare and what you hide.

5:100 Say, "The bad and the good are not same. Let not the popularity of the evil dazzle you. O People of understanding! Be mindful of Allah's Laws if you wish to reap a rich harvest. (The bad or evil is that which harms the collective good of humanity and drags your "Self" down 14:24-27. The right is right, and the wrong is wrong regardless of what the majority think 2:243, 6:116-119, 11:17).

5:101 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Ask not unnecessary details of the things as the Israelites did to Moses about the cow. This attitude may bring unpleasant consequences for you. But if you ask them as the Qur'an is being revealed, the minor details of Ordinances might be given which will be hard for you to follow. The general rule has been given that all pure and good things are Permissible to you. Your questions are very clearly answered in the Qur'an (5:15, 15:1, 22:40). Allah has absolved you in this respect for Allah is Forgiving, Clement. (The Qur'an is for all times, and while the basic Laws and Principles remain immutable, minor details are intended to be flexible according to temporal and spatial requirements 11:1. "This day I have perfected your DEEN for you, completed My favor upon you, and chosen for you Islam as the System of Life" 5:3).

5:102 Some folk before you asked such questions and then rejected the instructions (2:68).

5:103 Allah did not ordain that certain kinds of cattle and other livestock be marked out, assigned names, and set aside from human use or consumption. Disbelievers invented such superstitions and attributed them to Allah. Most of them do not use their intellect.

5:104 When it is said to them, "Come to that which Allah has revealed and to His Messenger, they say, "Enough for us is what we found our parents doing." What! Even though their parents had no knowledge whatsoever and no guidance?

5:105 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! You are responsible for yourselves. He who goes astray cannot harm you if you are rightly guided. All of you will return to Allah; and He will make you understand all that you were doing in life.

5:106 (Where necessary, even minor details of Law have been given to you in the Qur'an.) O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When death approaches you, two equitable persons among you should witness your will. If the pangs of death come upon you when you are traveling far from home, then two equitable persons other than your own people (non-Muslims) may do the witnessing. After you have prayed, let the witnesses swear by God, "We shall not sell our word for any price, even though it is in favor of a relative, and we will not conceal what we have witnessed before God, or else we will be among the sinners."

5:107 If the witnesses commit this very violation, then let two others from among the nearest in kin take their place and swear by God, "Our testimony (that we have heard from the deceased before) is truer than these two, and we have not transgressed the bounds of right, or else, may we indeed be counted among the transgressors."

5:108 This procedure will encourage an honest testimony to begin with. The first witnesses will be more likely to bear true witness fearing that after their oath, the oath of others might be taken. Be mindful of Allah's Laws, and listen. Allah does not guide those who decide to drift away from the Straight Path.

5:109 On the Day when Allah will assemble all Messengers and ask them, “What was the long term response to your teachings?” They will say, “We have no knowledge. You, only You are the Knower of the Unseen.”

5:110 When Allah will say, “O Jesus, son of Mary! Recall My blessings upon you and your mother. I strengthened you with Sacred Revelation, enabled you to speak eloquently to the people while still in childhood, and also at a later age (3:45). I gave you revelation and wisdom including the Torah and the Gospel. Recall that you told them that you would raise them from dust up into the heights of glory by My leave (7:176). You made people see the Truth otherwise given to blind following by My leave. You healed the wounds of inequity on people by My leave, and you gave a new meaning to life to those who were otherwise no better than dead by My leave (3:48, 3:111, 6:123). Recall, how I prevented the Children of Israel from harming you when you came to them with all evidence of the truth (4:157). And those who were bent upon denying the truth said, “This is nothing but clear deception.”

5:111 Recall, I told the disciples in the Gospel, “Believe in Me and in My messenger. They said, "We believe, and be Witness that we have submitted."

5:112 When the disciples said, “O Jesus, son of Mary! Is your Lord Able to send down for us a Table Spread with Heavenly sustenance? Jesus said, “Be mindful of Allah's Laws if you are believers.” (Establish the Divine Order on earth and that will ensure heavenly provision in abundance and equity (7:96).”

5:113. They said, "This is exactly what we want. So that we live with a contented heart and know that your System is truly workable. And that we may be witnesses for the future generations.”

5:114 Jesus, son of Mary, said, “O God our Lord! Help us create the Heavenly System on earth that ensures abundance of provision for all of us. Let there be a happy feast for the founders and the followers of the Divine System. This will be a Sign from You that Your Commands are blissful. Provide for us and You are the Best of providers.”

5:115. Allah said, “ I will make abundance for you as long as you remain loyal to the System. But, for those who disbelieve afterward, I will punish them as I have never punished anyone else.”

5:116 On the Resurrection Day, Allah will say, "O Jesus, son of Mary! Did you say to mankind, ‘Worship me and my mother as deities besides God?" He will respond, "Be Glorified! Never could I say what was not my right. If I said such a thing, You would indeed know it. You know what is in my mind, and I know not what is in Your mind. You, only You are the Knower of what is beyond human perception.”

5:117 "Never did I say to them except what You Commanded me to say, 'Worship and obey Allah my Lord and your Lord.' I was a witness to them as long as I lived among them. After You caused me to die, You were the Watcher over them and You are Witness over all things and events."

5:118 “If You punish them, they are Your servants, and if You forgive them, You alone are Almighty, Wise.”

5:119 Allah will say, "This is a Day when the truthful will benefit form their truthfulness. For them are Gardens with rivers flowing beneath, wherein they will be immortal. Allah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him. This is the Greatest Triumph.”

5:120 To Allah belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and the earth and everything therein. He has Power over all things and events, and He has appointed due measure for all things.

**Surah 6 – Al-An’am – The Cattle**

[Author's note] This is the 6th Surah of the Qur’an. It has 165 verses. The main distinction between humans and other creations on earth is that of intellect and, with it, the free will.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

6:1 All Praise in word and action belongs to Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth, and appointed darkness and light. (All things in the Universe witness and manifest His Glory). Yet those who reject the Truth, hold others as equal with their Sustainer.

6:2 He is the One Who created you from inorganic matter, and decreed a term for you humans, a term known to Him. It is determined according to His Laws, for individuals (3:144, 56:60) and nations (7:34, 10:49, 13:38). Yet you keep doubting and arguing about Him.

6:3 He is Allah in the heavens and in the earth. He knows all that you keep secret as well as all that you do openly.

6:4 Yet whenever a Message from the Revelations of their Sustainer came to them, they turned away from it.

6:5 And so they are denying this Truth as it has come to them. However, soon they will come to understand what they used to ridicule.

6:6 Do they not see how many a generation Our Law of Requital has annihilated before them? We had established them on earth more firmly than you, and We gave them plenty of blessings of the heavens and the earth, abundant showers from the sky and rivers flowing beneath them. When they trailed behind in humanity, Our Law obliterated them or caused them to be enslaved by another nation.

6:7 Even if We had sent down to you (O Prophet) a pre-printed book written upon parchment, so that they could feel it with their hands, the rejecters would have said, "This is nothing but obvious magic!"

6:8 They say, "Why is not an angel sent down to him," for them to behold? If We sent down an angel, the matter would have been judged; no further time would be allowed them. (We send angels to behold only when the period of respite is over 16:33, 25:22).

6:9 If We sent an angel to them, We would have sent him in the form of a man (so that he could live with them and speak to them), and the truth would remain obscure as it is to them now.

6:10 Messengers before you have been mocked. The very thing they used to mock overwhelmed them in the end.

6:11 Say, “Travel through the earth taking lessons from history (in order to comprehend the Laws of the Rise and Fall of nations), and notice the outcome of those who belied these Laws.”

6:12 (From history, let them turn their attention to the Universe). Say, “To whom belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth?” Say, “To Allah Who has prescribed for Himself Mercy.” (He nourishes the entire Universe as a mother’s womb nourishes the fetus with no returns, while meeting its needs at all stages of development. He does not task individuals and nations to doom, without giving them a period of respite to mend their behavior). He will assemble all individuals and nations on the Day when humanity stands on its feet, and ultimately on the Day of Resurrection about which there is no doubt. Only those who have destroyed their “Self” will keep denying the Truth.

6:13 To Him belongs all that dwells in the night and the day. He is the Knower, the Hearer.

6:14 Say, “Shall I take for my master other than Allah Who is the Initiator of the heavens and the earth? And He provides all without return. Feeds but is not fed.” Say, “ I have been commanded to be the foremost among those who surrender to Him and ascribe not divinity besides Him.”

6:15 Say, "I fear, if I disobey my Lord, the retribution of an awesome Day."

6:16 Whoever is saved from retribution on that Day, has attained Allah’s Mercy, and that is the signal triumph.

6:17 Whatever adversity touches you for violating Allah’s Laws, the only way to redress it is to turn to His Laws. And you attain all blessings by following His Laws, for He is Able to do all things. He has appointed due measure for all things including harm and benefit.

6:18 He is Supreme over His servants, and He is the Wise, the Aware. (He uses his Authority with Wisdom and Knowledge).

6:19 Say (O Messenger), "What could be the greatest witness?” Say, “Allah is Witness between me and you. This Qur’an has been revealed to me so that I may warn you as well as whomever it reaches. Do you bear witness that there are other deities besides Allah?” Say, “I bear no such witness.” Say, “He is the One God. I disown what you associate with Him.”

6:20 Those who have been given the Scripture, recognize this fact as they recognize their sons (the fact of God’s Transcendental Uniqueness and Oneness). Yet those who have squandered their own "Self” fail to accept such undeniable Truth.

6:21 Who can be a greater transgressor than the one who invents a lie against Allah and belies His Revelations? The wrongdoers who displace reality with falsehood, will not succeed.

6:22 On the Day We assemble them, We will ask the idolaters, “Where are now those partners of Allah that you conceived?”

6:23 They will hardly have a response, but they will swear," By Allah, our Lord, we never were idolaters.”

6:24 Imagine how they lie against themselves, and how their fabricated gods abandon them.

6:25 Some of them pretend to listen to you, but Our Law has already veiled their hearts from understanding and caused deafness in their ears. Blind followers fail to believe even when they see all kinds of proofs. When they come to argue with you, they say about the Qur’an, "These are stories of the bygones."

6:26 They repel others from the Qur’an and deprive themselves of it. They hurt their own “Self” without even knowing it.

6:27 If only you could see them when they face the Fire! They will say, “ We wish we could go back and never reject our Lord's Revelations, and be among the believers.”

6:28 Nay, they will be making excuses since the Truth they used to conceal from themselves, has become obvious to them. If they were sent back (with no retention of what they have seen), they would commit exactly the same crimes. They are indeed liars.

6:29 There are people who think that the only life is the life of this world and that they will not be raised again.

6:30 But if only you could see when they stand before their Lord! He will ask, “Is not this real? ” They will say “Yes, by our Lord.” Allah will then say, “Taste the Requital for your rejection of the Truth.”

6:31 Losers indeed are those who deny meeting with Allah, until the Hour suddenly comes upon them. Then they say, “We deeply regret wasting our lives in this world!” They will bear on their backs their burdens. What a miserable load!

6:32 The life of this world is a play and a passing delight in comparison to the Eternal Life. The abode of the Hereafter is far better for those who live according to the Divine Laws. Will you not use Reason?

6:33 We know well how their talk grieves you (O Messenger). In truth they deny you not. It is the Revelations of Allah that these wrongdoers flout.

6:34 Messengers before you were denied and opposed. They steadfastly faced persecution until Our help reached them. There is none to alter the Decisions, Laws and Words of Allah. Some history of the Messengers has already come to you and sets examples for you.

6:35 If their rejection is hard on you, know that even if you dug a tunnel in the ground, or climbed a ladder into the sky and brought a miracle for them, they still will not believe. If it were Allah's Will, He could assemble them to Guidance. But, He wants them to make free decisions (10:98-99). Be not among those who are carried away to ignore the Law.

6:36 Only those can accept who hear and listen with an open mind (10:100). The living dead will only listen when they use their faculties (2:260), or when Allah will raise them to the second life; unto Him will they be returned.

6:37 They say, "If only a miracle could come down to him from his Lord!" Say, "Allah surely has the Power to send down a miracle, but most of them do not use their knowledge." (He does not wish to stun the human intellect with supernatural phenomena. He wants people to reflect and use reason 12:108).

6:38 (There are miracles in the Universe to behold). All creatures on earth and all the birds that fly on two wings are communities like you. We did not omit any knowledge from this Book that was essential to be given through Revelation. All these creatures are part of the Divine Plan and they are together working the Plan of their Lord.

6:39 Those who deny Our Signs are deaf and dumb, in total darkness. Straying, and Guidance take place according to the Divine Laws (4:88).

6:40 Ask them, "If a natural disaster strikes you as Divine retribution, or when the Hour comes, would you call upon others besides God? Answer if you are truthful."

6:41 Nay, you call unto Him, act, and He removes your affliction according to His Laws. At that time you forget your idols.

6:42 We sent Messengers to nations before you. (They compassionately advised their people that the Supreme Law is operative on the earth, as it is in the heavens). When those nations violated Our Laws in their societies, they had to face the consequences. They should have become humble and taken corrective action right away.

6:43 But, instead of being humble when Our Requital touched them, their selfish desire led their minds into rationalizing their actions. This is because their hearts had been hardened with arrogance and repeated rejection of the Truth (2:74, 5:13).

6:44 They ignored the Message, and persisted in their ways. We opened for them the gates of all things and they kept enjoying life exploiting others (16:112). But the Law of Requital is ever vigilant. Social orders based on injustice and inequities eventually fail. Our Requital then came with stunning speed, and all they could do was, to plunge in despair.

6:45 When nations violated human rights with their unjust systems they were uprooted (6:6, 7:129). Allah replaced them with people who were not like them (10:14, 11:57). You can understand that all Praise in word and action belongs to the Lord of the Worlds; His Rule is the Rule of Law (8:53, 13:11).

6:46 (The exploiters of the masses think that they are smarter, and hence, they deserve to take advantage 28:76-82). They must realize that the Creator has given them the faculties of hearing, seeing and thinking. If their faculties were taken away, who can restore these back to them but the

Law of Allah? See, how We use TASREEF --presenting Our verses from various view-points --giving them the Big Picture. Yet they turn away.

6:47 Tell them that the punishment according to the Law of Requital, sneaks up or suddenly hits nations that are transgressors (11:104). Would any people perish unless they are oppressors of the masses? (Nations are not annihilated unless they violate human rights 11:117).

6:48 We have sent Our Messengers to give good news and to warn. Those who attain belief, mend their ways and work for social equity fulfilling the needs of others, will have nothing to fear nor will they have any regrets.

6:49 But those who belie Our Revelations, retribution will afflict them, for they keep drifting from the secure path. (Retribution is a logical and built-in consequence of their wrongdoing (7:147, 91:9-10).

6:50 Say, (O Messenger), "I do not claim that I have the Treasures of Allah, nor do I have the knowledge of the Unseen, nor do I tell you that I am an angel. I follow what is revealed to me. (You blindly follow your ancestors). Say, "Is the blind of the heart the same as the seer who uses reason? Won't you reflect?"

6:51 Counsel those who are mindful of the Law of Requital and have the slightest idea that they will be brought before their Lord. And they know that besides Allah, they will have no protector and no intercessor. Counsel them so that they may live upright.

6:52 In spite of the demands of the rich and powerful leaders, you shall not turn away the poor who call upon their Lord, morning and evening, seeking His Approval. They are responsible for whatever good and bad they have done, and their toiling in labor is respectable in the Sight of Allah. Likewise they are not accountable for you. If you repelled them, you shall be of the wrongdoers.

6:53 We thus let people distinguish one another's egos. The elite among them say, "Are these the people among us whom Allah has favored?" But, is not Allah best Aware of the appreciative?

6:54 When those who believe in Our Revelations come to you, say, SALAMUN ALAIKUM (Peace be upon you!) Your Lord has decreed for Himself Mercy. Thus anyone among you who commits a bad deed out of ignorance, and then repents and makes mends should know that He is Forgiving, Merciful.

6:55 We explain Our Laws to distinguish (between minor, unintended violations and) the way of the criminals who steal the fruit of others' labor.

6:56 Say, "I am forbidden to worship and obey on whom you call instead of Allah." Say, "I will not follow your desires, otherwise I will go astray and not be among the rightly guided."

6:57 Say, "I have a manifest Proof from my Lord that you deny. I do not control the retribution you challenge me to bring. Judgment belongs to none but Allah. And no one has the Ultimate Rule. He declares the Truth and He is the Best of deciders."

6:58 Say, "If the ultimate decision you are hastening for was up to me, the case would have been already decided. Allah is best Aware of the wrongdoers."

6:59 With Him are the keys of the Unseen. (None but He knows the subtle processes and their stages where actions culminate into their logical outcome). He knows everything in the land and in the sea. Not even a leaf falls without His knowledge. Neither is there a grain in the dark depths of the soil, nor anything fresh or withered, that He knows not. But all is written in the Open Book of the Universe around you.

6:60 He suspends your consciousness during sleep at night, and knows what you do by day, when awake. He resurrects you every morning until your life span is completed. Death is, likewise, a temporary suspension of consciousness and afterward to Him is your return (39:42). Then, He will inform you of what you really accomplished.

6:61 He is Supreme over His servants. His Laws guard your life until the inescapable Law of death approaches you. When death comes to one of you, Our couriers receive him without delay.

6:62 Then they are restored to Allah, their Rightful Master. Surely, His is the Command and His is the Judgment. And He is the most Swift of reckoners.

6:63 Say, " Who saves you, in the darkness of the land and the sea, when you call upon Him humbly and quietly saying, "If He saves us this time, we will always be thankful?"

6:64 Say, "It is Allah (Whose Laws you trust never to change), that protects you from different afflictions. Even then you attribute partners to Him!"

6:65 Say, "He is Able to send punishment upon you from above you or from beneath your feet, or to bewilder you with dissension and make you taste the tyranny one of another. (Violation of His Laws can inflict you from the top in the form of tyrannical rule, or from the bottom in the form of popular rebellion. You could then divide into hateful parties, and taste smite of one another). Note how We use TASREEF, explaining Our Verses from various vantage points, that men and women may understand.

6:66 Even then, (O Messenger) Your people deny the Truth. Tell them, "I have not been appointed a guardian over you."

6:67 Every tiding given in the Qur'an shall come to pass and you mankind will surely find out.

6:68 When you see men and women engaged in mocking Our Verses, ignore them until they turn to a different theme. If your mind gets engrossed in their discourse, then as soon as you recollect, no longer sit with them. Those who displace decent dialogue with mockery indeed wrong their own "Self".

6:69 Those who walk aright bear no responsibility for them, except decent follow up reminders, so that the fellow human beings might reflect and come to walk the Right Path.

6:70 Leave to themselves those who take their religion as nothing but pastime, amusement, games of ritual, and social partying; their life revolving around quick gains of the worldly life. But follow up with reminders with the Qur'an on appropriate occasions. Remind people lest a "Self" be ruined for its own actions. No "Self" has a protecting friend, master or intercessor against the Law of Allah even if it offered any conceivable ransom. Such is the end of those who land themselves into ruin with their own actions. For them is a draught of burning despair and a painful doom. They had kept denying the Truth.

6:71 Say, “Should we call unto those who can neither benefit nor harm us, and turn back on our heels after Allah has guided us aright? In that situation we would be like the person who is left wandering enticed by his satanic thoughts, stranded in the desert of doubt. And his companions trying to guide him: Come to us! Say, “The guidance of Allah is Guidance, and we are commanded to submit to the Lord of the Worlds.”

6:72 “And to establish the Divine System and walk aright. He it is to Whom you will be summoned."

6:73 He has created the heavens and the earth with a definite Plan. Whenever He says “Be!” it is. His Word is the Truth and comes True. As ever, His will be the Dominion on the Day when the Trumpet is blown (of Resurrection). Knower of the invisible and the visible, He is the Wise, the Aware.

6:74 Remember when Abraham said to his father Azar (Terah), “How could you worship idols as gods? I see you and your people are in obvious error.” (Azar is called Terah in the Bible and Zarah in Talmud).

6:75 We gave Abraham insight, the ability to reflect, into the Mighty Dominion of the Universe so that he might attain firm conviction.

6:76 (Some of his people were idolaters and others were Nature worshipers.) One night when it grew dark upon him he saw a star. Abraham exclaimed to them, “This is my Lord!” But when it went down, he said, “I love not the things that go down.”

6:77 (The other night) when the moon was rising, he exclaimed, “This is my Lord." But when it went down, he said to himself and to the people, “Unless my Lord guides me, I surely will go astray.”

6:78 (In the morning) he saw the sun rising in splendor, and he said, “This is my Lord! This is greater!” But, as the sun went down, Abraham exclaimed, “O My people! I am free from all that you associate with God.”

6:79 “I have focused firmly on Him Who initiated the heavens and the earth; as an upright man I turn away from all that is false. I will never be an idol worshiper in any form.”

6:80 His people argued with him, but Abraham said, “You dispute with me about Allah when He has guided me? I have no fear of the idols you set up. Nothing can happen to me contrary to the Laws of Allah. My Lord’s Knowledge encompasses all things. Will you not then, use your intellect?” (This is how Abraham tried that his people reflect and be rational).

6:81 He said, “Why should I fear that which you set up beside Him, when you fear not to set up beside Allah, deities for which He has sent no authority and that are utterly powerless. Think which of the two sides among us deserves peace and security?(3:150-151, 29:41, 33:39) Answer me if you have the answer.”

6:82 Those who attain belief and cloak not their belief with wrong doctrines, for them is inner peace and security. They are rightly guided.

6:83 This is the logic (examples of the star, the moon and the sun) that We taught Abraham against his people. We exalt people in ranks when they follow Our Laws. Your Lord is Wise, All-Knowing.

6:84 We gave him Isaac the son, and Jacob the grandson, and We guided them. Before Abraham, We guided Noah and from his descendants, We guided David, Solomon, Job, Joseph, Moses, and Aaron. We thus reward the benefactors of humanity.

6:85 And Zachariah, John, Jesus and Elias; all in the ranks of the righteous who fulfilled the needs of mankind.

6:86 And Ishmael, Elisha, Jonah, and Lot. To all of them We gave distinction over people of their times.

6:87 And We gave distinction to some of their ancestors, children and siblings and guided them to the Straight Path.

6:88 This is the Guidance of Allah. He guides His servants according to His Laws (4:88). If they had associated others with Allah, their actions would have been vain.

6:89 They were the ones to whom We gave the Scripture, Sound Judgment and Prophethood. Now, if these people reject these truths, We have entrusted these truths to people who will not refuse to acknowledge them.

6:90 Those were the ones guided by Allah, so follow their guidance. Say, (O Messenger), “I ask of you no wage for this. This (Guidance in the Qur’an) is but a Reminder to all nations.”

6:91 People do not value Allah as He must be valued when they say, "Allah has not revealed His Message to any human being." Ask them, “Who then revealed the Scripture which Moses brought, a Light and Guidance for people? Although you put it down on parchment which you show, but you conceal a lot. You were taught what neither you, nor your ancestors knew before.” Say, “Allah (revealed it).” Then leave them to play at their vain talk.

6:92 And this Qur’an is the Blessed Book that We have sent down, confirming the Divine Origin of what was revealed before it, that you (O Prophet) may warn the Central Town, Makkah, and places around it. (From this Center, the Message will fan out 6:90, 12:104). Those who believe in (the Law of Recompense) the Hereafter, accept this Book as a comprehensive Guide. And they will establish the Divine System.

6:93 Who can be a greater wrongdoer than the one who fabricates a lie against Allah, or claims receiving Revelation while he has received none? Or someone who says, “I, too, can bestow the like of what Allah has bestowed.” If only you could see such transgressors reach the pangs of death! The angels extend their hands to them saying, “Bring out your egos. This day you will be awarded a punishment of disgrace for speaking lies concerning Allah, and being arrogant to His revelations.”

6:94 Now you have come to Us alone just as We created you individuals the first time. You have left behind all your belongings. We do not see with you the intercessors you idolized. Now all ties among you have been cut off and your assumptions have failed you.

6:95 Allah is the One Who causes the grains and the seeds to split and germinate. He produces the living from the dead, and the dead from the living. Such is Allah. Where are you headed in bewilderment?
(Similar are the Laws that apply to individuals and nations. They must develop their inherent potentials in order to prosper.)

6:96 He is the Cleaver of the daybreak. He has appointed the night for stillness, (rest and tranquility) and the sun and the moon to run their well-calculated courses. They become means of calculating time for you (10:5). Such is the Design of the All-Powerful, the All-Knowing.

6:97 He it is Who has made the stars to guide you through the darkness of the land and the sea. (And they never fail to guide you 21:33, 36:40). We have scattered Our Signs throughout the Universe for people of Science.

6:98 And He it is Who initiated you from a single life cell. Then in the process of evolution He appointed stages, from one station to the next destination. (Thus goes on the journey of life here and in the Hereafter (11:6). We have explained Our Laws for people who will learn and understand.

6:99 (He took care of your provision even before you were created.) He it is Who sends down water from the heights. With it We produce vegetation of all kind; green multitudes, complex grains, palm trees, from their pollens spring pendant clusters, and gardens of grapes, olives and pomegranate; fruits that are similar and diverse. Look upon the fruit thereof and look upon its ripening. These are signs for those who reach conviction through reason.

6:100 Yet, there are people who think falsely that there are invisible creatures, Jinns, with occult powers that share the Divine Attributes. But He has created them, and people assign sons and daughters to Him out of sheer ignorance. Glorified, Exalted is He, infinitely Above what they ascribe to Him.

6:101 Wonderful Originator of the heavens and the earth! How can He have a son when He never chose for Himself a mate? He creates all things (and does not procreate 112:3) and He is the Profound Knower of all things and events.

6:102 Such is Allah, your Sustainer. There is no god but He. No one is worthy of worship and obedience but He, the Creator of all things. Hence, obey Him! He is the Guardian of all and takes care of every thing.

6:103 No vision can encompass Him while He encompasses all vision. He is Subtile, Unfathomable, and therefore beyond physical perception. He is Aware of the minutest details.

6:104 (You are not expected to know His Person.) Say (O Prophet), “The manifest Enlightenment has come to you from your Lord. Whoever sees the Truth, does so for his own good. And whoever turns blind, hurts himself. I am not your keeper or guardian.”

6:105 And thus We give many facets to Our verses that they might realize that, “You (O Prophet) have indeed learned these teachings deep down in your heart.” (Allah has taught the Messenger in the most beautiful manner). And through this method of TASREEF We make the Message clear to those who use their perceptual knowledge.

6:106 Follow that which is revealed to you from your Lord. There is no god but He. And disregard those who associate others with Him (21:20-22, 29:61-63).

6:107 We could have created all people without free will and they would then not associate any partners with Him. (But guidance has been distinguished from straying 2:256). And We have not appointed you (O Messenger) as their guardian, nor are you responsible for them.

6:108 O Believers! Insult not the idols they set up besides Allah. They might insult Allah in their ignorance and hurt themselves. To every community Our Law has made their deeds seem fair. Then unto their Lord is their return and He will inform them what they accomplished and He will make them understand what they really used to do in life.

6:109 They swear by Allah that if a miracle comes to them, they would surely believe in it (the Book). Say, “All miracles are with Allah (if you reflect on the Universe). What can make you understand that even if a physical miracle came to them, they will find other excuses and still not believe?

6:110 Our Law keeps their hearts and their eyes turned away from the Truth. Since they have preemptively rejected it (the Qur’an), We let them wander blindly in their rebellious attitude.

6:111 Even if We caused the angels to descend to them, and the dead to speak to them, and We lined up all the miracles before them, they would not believe. People can be guided only according to Allah’s Laws, but most of them choose the way of ignorance.

6:112 Thus We have appointed to every Prophet enemies. The rebellious among the urban and the rural populations rose in opposition, (since the Message struck at their vested interests). They plotted and inspired each other with fancy words. If your Lord willed, they won't do that. (But, challenges come your way only to expand your personalities 2:286). (O Prophet) Leave them alone with their fabrications.

6:113 Those who love quick gains and neglect the long-term benefits and the Hereafter, are parties to such fabrications. Let them delight in it and let them earn from it what they may.

6:114 Say, “Shall I seek for Judge and Ruler someone other than Allah? He it is Who has revealed this Book, well expounded in detail for you.” Those whom We have given the Book know that this is revealed in Truth from your Lord. Be not among those who argue for the sake of argument.

6:115 Perfected is the Word of your Lord in Truth and Justice. None can change His Words and His Laws. This announcement comes to you from the Profound Hearer, the Knower.

6:116 (People will confront you with what the majority is doing.) Now if you pay heed to, or get intimidated by majority of those who live on earth, they will lead you astray from Allah’s Way. Most of the people follow nothing but conjecture and they only live by guesswork.

6:117 Only your Lord (shows the Right Path and) knows best those who stray and those who are rightly guided.

6:118 (People wonder why different things have been made Lawful or Unlawful in the Qur’an. But what the majority thinks shall never be the criterion 3:93). So eat of that which Allah has made Permissible, if you are indeed believers in His Revelations.

6:119 Why should you not eat of that on which Allah's Name has been pronounced (i.e. it is not dedicated to other than Him)? He has explained to you in detail what is forbidden along with certain exceptions in dire need (5:3). Numerous of the clergy mislead people in this matter without knowledge, and with their personal opinions. Verily, your Lord is fully Aware of those who go beyond moderation.

6:120 Abstain from violating the Divine Commands, whether openly or secretly. Those who drag down their "Self" by such violations will be awarded what they have earned. (They will live a subhuman existence and meet a befitting consequence).

6:121 Eat not anything (not just meat) unless the Name of Allah has been pronounced first, for that will mean drifting away from Commands. The rebellious among people inspire their companions to dispute with you. If you people heed them, you will be associating others with Allah.

6:122 (Our Light revives the living dead and makes them walk honorably among mankind.) Is one who was dead and We gave him life with Light that enables him to move among people, equal to one in total darkness from which he cannot come out? (When people have their belief system jumbled up, they lose the power to distinguish between the right and wrong). Hence, the rejecters of the Truth find their own deeds pleasing.

6:123 This is how We allow the greatest ones in every community to become its greatest criminals, to weave their schemes. Yet it is only against themselves that they scheme without even knowing it.

6:124 When a Message comes to them, they say, "We will not believe until we are directly given what Allah's Messengers are given." But, Allah knows best with whom to place His Message. Such criminals will be humiliated by Allah's Law of Requital, and suffer a heavy punishment for their scheming.

6:125 Whoever follows Allah's Law of Guidance, He expands his chest wide open to submission. And whoever violates Allah's Law of Guidance, feels his chest tight and narrowed as if he were climbing to the sky. Thus Allah's Law appoints disgrace for those who continue to reject the Truth.

6:126 And this (Qur'an) is the Path of your Lord, a Straight Path. Clearly indeed have We detailed Our Revelations for those who pay attention and take them to their heart!

6:127 For them is the wonderful Abode of Peace with their Sustainer. He will be their Protecting Friend because of what they used to do.

6:128 The day will come when He gathers all of them and says, "O You nomads! You have seduced many of the urbanites." Their urbanite friends will say, "Our Lord! We enjoyed each other's company (and both used each other opportunistically as happens in a chaotic society) until we wasted a life span You had given us. He will say, "Fire is your home. Abide therein forever since Allah's Laws never change. Your Lord, the Wise, All-Knowing has designed the Law of Requital."

6:129 Thus Our Law makes the wrongdoers keep company towards a common earning. (The criminals of the same kind tend to hang around together).

6:130 O You, assembly of the nomads and the urbanites! Did not Messengers come to you from among you, who conveyed to you My Messages and warned you of the meeting of this your Day? They will say, "We testify against ourselves." Pursuit of only the worldly life preoccupied their hearts and minds. They will bear witness against themselves that they disregarded the Truth.

6:131 And so it is that your Lord never destroys communities arbitrarily while their people are unaware of their wrongdoings.

6:132 The ranks of all individuals and nations are determined solely by their deeds, and your Lord is not unaware of what they do. (Calling yourselves believers won't help 2:8)

6:133 Your Lord is Absolute, the Lord of Mercy. He could replace you with whomever He Will, like He raised you from the generations of other folk.(It is His Mercy that He does Justice to peoples without discrimination, and His Rule is the Rule of Law 114:1).

6:134 That which you are promised will surely come to pass, and you can never evade the Divine Laws.

6:135 Say (to the opponents O Messenger), "O My people! Do all that is in your power. Behold, I am working. Very soon, you will come to know for which of us is the ultimate success. Violators of human rights will never be successful."

6:136 (How can their program succeed when their belief system and the resulting actions are wrong?) They set aside a portion of Allah's provision of crops and cattle and claim, "This is for Allah, and this is for our idols." But the share of their idols never reaches Allah, and the share of Allah does reach their idols. What an unjust decision they make! (Their priesthood devours both portions of their making, and the poor remain wanting. To Allah reaches what you spend on the needy 6:141).

6:137 (At the prompting of the mystics and monks, and in the name of their temples, idols, sanctuaries, and the dead "holy" men and women), the MUSHRIKEEN do acts of omission and commission against their own children! They inflict great pain upon themselves and their families in the name of religion. If they followed Allah's Commands, they wouldn't have done it. (Since they take this abuse as a part of their plan to salvation, for the moment), leave them alone with their fabrications (until Reality gazes them in the eyes).

6:138 And they say, "Such and such cattle and fruits of the field are sacred. No one will eat of them except whom we permit." They also arbitrarily prohibit the riding of some animals (saying that it has been dedicated to some elite or saint. Aren't such VIP favors very much alive in the modern day JAHILYAH?) And there are cattle over which they pronounce not the Name of Allah (but of someone else to please people). Such are their fabrications in His Name. Soon He will reward them for their false imagery.

6:139 (They display their bias toward women in weird ways.) They say, "What is in the bellies of these cattle is reserved for the males among us, and forbidden to our wives." But if it is a stillbirth, they permit their wives to share it. He, the Wise, the Knower, will repay them for their innovations.

6:140 Lost indeed are those who kill their children foolishly, and forbid what Allah has provided them as sustenance. And they attribute their innovations to Allah! (They deprive their children to

the point of starvation and death in the name of religious service, when under the instructions of the priesthood they abandon their families). Their straying is far from the way of the rightly guided.

6:141 He it is Who creates Bounties for you, such as gardens that are cultivated, greens that are wild, palm trees of various kinds, crops in diversity, olives and pomegranates, fruits that are similar and diverse. Enjoy them, but give Him His Right. Render the poor what is their Divine Right, on the day of the harvest. This is how you shall give Allah His Right. Do not waste the Bounty of Allah. He does not love the wasteful.

6:142 Among the large and small quadrupeds some are for work and transportation and others for flesh, and their skins for bedding materials. Enjoy what Allah has provided you. And follow not the footsteps of Satan. Satan, your selfish desire, is your open enemy.

6:143 Take the example of eight quadrupeds: Two sheep, one male and one female, two goats, one male and one female. Say, "Is it the two males that He has forbidden, or the two females, or the calves in the wombs of the females? Tell me if you have true knowledge.

6:144 Then two camels, one male and one female, two cows, one male and one female. Say, "Is it the two males that He has forbidden, or the two females, or the calves in the wombs of the two females? Were you witnesses when Allah made such prohibitions? Who can be a greater transgressor than the one who invents a lie and attributes it to Allah? They mislead people without knowledge. Allah does not intervene to guide those who displace knowledge with conjecture."

6:145 Say, "I do not find in the Revelation given to me, any food that is prohibited for one who wishes to eat except: Carrion (dead meat), running blood as against organ meats, the flesh of swine for it is disapproved, or anything (not just meat) which, in disobedience, has been dedicated to other than Allah." If one is forced by dire need without being deliberate and without transgressing, your Lord is Forgiving, Merciful. (2:173, 5:3).

6:146 For those who are Jewish, We had prohibited some edibles, such as animals with undivided hoof, the fat of the cow and the sheep, except that which is carried on their backs or on their intestines, or what is mixed-up in the bone. But that was only a temporary retribution for their disobedience (4:160). We are indeed True to Our Word.

6:147 If they accuse you of falsehood (O Prophet), tell them, "Your Lord is a Lord of Infinite Mercy, but His Requital will not be averted from the guilty."

6:148 Those who associate others with Allah will say, "Had Allah willed, we would not practice idolatry, nor would our ancestors, nor would we prohibit anything." So did their ancestors argue falsely until they tasted Our Requital. Say, "Do you have any proven knowledge that you can present (that the human being is created without free will 18:29, 76:3, 90:10)? Nay, you follow nothing but conjecture. You only run after guess-work."

6:149 Say, "The most Powerful Reasoning, the Final Evidence belongs to Allah. If He Willed, He could have made all of you innately guided (like other creation who spontaneously follow Divine Laws 16:49, 41:11)."

6:150 Say, "Come, bring forward your witnesses who can bear witness that Allah forbade all this. And if they bear witness falsely, do not bear witness with them. You shall not follow the opinions of

those who deny our Revelations, nor of those who believe not in the life to come, and deem others equal with their Lord.

6:151 Say, "Come, let me convey to you what your Sustainer has enjoined upon you as a sacred duty:
-Associate no one with Him.
-Honor you parents, do good to them, fulfill their needs.
-Neither kill your children for fear of poverty nor deprive them of proper training and education. We provide for you and for them. (The Divine System will take care of your needs and their needs).
-Do not go near immodesty or lewdness whether openly or in secret.
-Do not slay a life, life that Allah has made sacred except in the course of justice. This He has commanded you so that you use reason and obey these Commands."

6:152. Allah Commands you further:
-Approach not the wealth of the orphan except for their own benefit until they come of age with full maturity of body and mind.
-Give full weight and full measure in all your dealings. Uphold justice in all aspects of your life. Our Commands are meant to widen your human potential. We do not assign any "Self" responsibility beyond its means.
-And when you voice an opinion, be just, even if it is against a relative.
-Fulfill your Covenant with Allah, the unwavering allegiance to the Divine System (1:4-5, 9:111). This He Commands for you to bear in mind.

6:153 (Say, O My people), this is my Straight Path, (and I, Muhammad, walk this Path 12:108)). Follow it, then, and follow not other ways that take you away from His Path. This He has ordained for you so that you live upright.

6:154 We had given Moses the Scripture complete for him who would do good to others. We gave him the Scripture in detail as guidance and a mercy that they might believe in the meeting of their Lord (and that all actions are recompensed).

6:155 And now this Qur'an is the Blessed Book that We have revealed. So follow it and walk aright so that you attain Mercy (and your human potential is guaranteed development, like a fetus grows in the mother's womb).

6:156 (It has been given to you) lest you say, "The Scripture was sent down to two groups (Jews and Christians) before our time, and we are unaware what they originally read."

6:157 Or lest you say, "If a Divine Scripture had come to us, we would be better guided than they. Now has come to you a clear evidence of Truth from your Lord. It is a Beacon and Mercy. Who can be a greater transgressor than the one who denies the Revelations of Allah and turns away from them in disregard? Our Law of Requital will award those who turn away from Our Revelations, an awful suffering for their disregard.

6:158 Are they waiting for angels, your Lord, or some physical miracles to come to them? On the Day one of such Signs comes, no person will benefit from declaring belief if he did not believe before. Or who, while believing, did not do good works. (Belief has to be based on Reason and it must lead you to a productive life). Say, "Keep on waiting (for miracles), we too are waiting (for the results of our efforts)".

6:159 (There is only one Straight Path.) O Messenger! Those who break the unity of their DEEN and become sects, you have nothing to do with them whatsoever. Behold, their case will go to Allah and He will tell them what they had been doing.

6:160 Whoever brings a good deed will receive a tenfold reward. And whoever brings an ill deed will be requited for one. And they will not be wronged.

6:161 Say, "As for me, my Lord has guided me to a Straight Path, the perfect DEEN of Abraham, the upright, who was no idolater in any sense.”

6:162 Say, "All my duties to the Divine System, the ways to discharge them, my living and my dying are for Allah alone, the Lord of the Worlds.

6:163 He has no partner. This is what I have been commanded and I am the foremost of those who surrender to Him.”

6:164 Say, "Shall I seek anyone other than Allah as a lord when He is the Sustainer of all things? No “Self” benefits but from its own works, and none bears the load of another. Then unto your Lord is your return and He will make you understand wherein you differed.

6:165 He it is Who has made you inheritors of the earth after other nations. And your ranks are determined by your actions. People and nations must create in them the capacity to live with honor (10:14). The real test is what you do with that which He has given you. Your Lord is Swift in retribution. Yet He is Forgiving, Merciful.

**Surah 7 – Al-A’raf – The Heights**

[Author's note] This is the 7th Surah of the Qur’an. It has 206 verses. People with outstanding faculties of reasoning are stationed at the Heights of human dignity.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

7:1 A.L.M.S. Alif. Lam. Mim. Saad. Allah Aleem, the Knower; As-Sadiq, the Truthful, states that,

7:2 This Book, a Divine Writ, has been revealed to you (O Messenger). Let it not burden your chest. It has been revealed to you so that you may caution your fellow human beings against the consequences of their wrong actions. This is a Reminder for those who attain belief.

7:3 O People! Follow what has been sent to you from your Lord and follow no masters other than Him. How seldom do you keep this in mind!

7:4 (You will find ample documentation in history that when communities ignored Our Permanent Value System they met with destruction.) How many a community Our Law of Requital has annihilated! Our Requital visited them by night, or while they slept at noon.

7:5 They had no plea when Our Requital came to them, but they said, “We were indeed unjust, and used to oppress the vulnerable.”

7:6 We will certainly question those to whom Our Messengers were sent, and verily We will question the Messengers.

7:7 We shall recount the whole story for them, for We were never absent in Time and Place.

7:8 The scales on that Day will be truly equitable. Those whose constructive deeds are heavy, will prosper.

7:9 And those whose scales are light, will be the ones who have put their 'Self' in loss. This is because they used to replace Our Revelations with man-made dogmas.

7:10 (Take heed before the final scales are set). We have placed you on earth and given you means for a fulfilling life. How seldom are you grateful! (Being grateful is sharing Allah's bounties with others 16:114, 31:12).

7:11 We created you, then shaped you, then told the angels, "Be of service to Adam! And they agreed to be of service, all but Iblis (Satan). He was not of the subservient. [Take a panoramic view of your common origin. Life began as a single life cell from hydrated inorganic matter (23:13). We made you Adam (Homo sapiens, male and female). And We made the angels (the Universal Forces) subservient to you. Satan or Iblis, your own rebellious desire, refused to submit to your higher controls of judgment.]

7:12 God said, "What stopped you from being subservient when I ordered you?" Iblis responded, "I am better than he. You created me from fire, and him from clay." (Emotions are fiery in relation to sound judgment. The criterion of honor is not lineage, color, caste or nation. It is nothing but good conduct 49:13).

7:13 (Recall that many of the verses of the Qur'an are allegorical.) God said, "You are dismissed and degraded hence. It is not for you to be arrogant here. Go forth, then! Among the humiliated you shall be."

7:14 He (Iblis) said, "Give me respite till the Day they are raised up."

7:15 The request was granted, " Be among those who are given respite."

7:16 Iblis said, "Since You have willed that I go astray, I will lurk in ambush for them in Your Straight Path."

7:17 "Then I will assault them openly and secretly, through their strengths and through their weaknesses. And You will not find most of them grateful (for Your Guidance).

7:18 He said, "Go forth from here, degraded and banished. Whoever follows you among them, I will surely fill hell with you all."

7:19 " O Adam! Dwell you and your wife in the Garden and eat from whatever you may wish; but do not approach this one tree, lest you become wrong doers." (Contrary to the popular beliefs that the Forbidden Tree was the tree of knowledge, fruit of this plant and that plant, or of sexual charms, it refers to humanity dividing itself like the branches of a tree 2:35-36, 2:213, 20:120).

7:20 Then Satan deceived them in order to reveal their imperfections and fallibility to them. He said, "Your Lord forbade this tree lest you become angels or become immortals." (The selfish desire of humans prompted them to think about their own children rather than the collective good. That would, in a way, give them power and immortality).

7:21 And Satan swore to both, man and woman, "I am a sincere advisor to you."

7:22 So by deceit Satan brought about their downfall. They tasted of the tree of discord and started to divide into branches. (Personal interest dominated their minds rather than the collective good of all. Humanity began to fall into mutual contention). Soon their imperfections became obvious and they tried to conceal them in vain with superficial courtesy. Then came a reminder from their Lord, "Did I not forbid you that tree and tell you that Satan is your open enemy?"

7:23 They said, "Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves. Unless You forgive us and have mercy on us, we will certainly be lost." (Man and woman accepted responsibility acknowledging that they had free will as against Satan who had ascribed his disobedience to the Will of Allah 7:16)

7:24 (Self interests of people had given rise to unjust marking of land and individual hoarding. Suppression of the weak had begun). Allah told them that they had fallen down from the high station of humanity. They had ignored the Law that "Mankind is one community" (10:19). From then on, they would live as tribes and nations, enemies to one another, "There will be for you on land an abode and sustenance for a while."

7:25 He said, "You shall live in the earth and die there and be resurrected from there." (In the meantime they could regain their lost paradise if they followed the Divine Commands 2:213).

7:26 O Children of Adam! We have provided you with garments to cover your bodies as well as to adorn you. The best garment for you to wear, in addition, is good conduct. Your character decorates you inside out. These are the verses of Allah that they must take to heart.

7:27 O Children of Adam! Let not your selfish desire deceive you as it deceived your ancestors, caused them to lose their paradise, and exposed their imperfections. A host of selfish and rebellious desires lurk within you. You can't even see them but these Satans see you and befriend those who do not believe.

7:28 (As an example) when people commit an indecency they say, "We found our forefathers doing it and Allah has enjoined it upon us." (Made it natural for us). Say (O Prophet), "Allah never enjoins indecency. Do you attribute to Allah of which you have no knowledge?"

7:29 Say (O Messenger), "My Lord enjoins justice and moderation and to stand devoted to Him alone in complete obedience. Call unto Him, sincere in your Faith in Him alone. He it is Who brought you into being in the first place, and to Him you will return." (And this is how you can regain your lost Paradise in both worlds).

7:30 But there will be two parties among people. Some of them will walk aright according to the Divine Laws of Guidance while others will ally with Satans as their friends. They take their religious leadership as their masters instead of Allah, and think that they are rightly guided (7:3, 22:13).

7:31 O Children of Adam! Subservience and obedience to the Divine Commands ensures for you adornment and nice things in life. So enjoy Allah's Bounties, but do not commit excesses. Allah does not love the wasters.

7:32 Say, "Who has forbidden the beauty and nice things Allah has brought forth for His servants, and the pure clean things of your choice?" Say, "Such things are for those in this world who believe in the Divine Laws. And on the Day of Resurrection they will be exclusively for those who attained Conviction." We thus explain Our Laws for those who make good use of what they learn".

7:33 Say, "My Lord forbids only:

- Indecent shameful deeds, open or secret.
- Actions that hurt the "Self" and drag down the individual and collective human potential.
- Unjust aggression.
- Idol worship in any form. It has been completely unauthorized by Allah.
- And that you say things about Allah that you know not."

7:34 All nations and communities determine the terms of their Rise and Fall in accordance with these Divine Laws. And these Laws work with meticulous timing, without delay and without hastening.

7:35 O Children of Adam! (I had revealed in the early stages of human civilization that I will keep sending My Guidance to you 2:213). So, when Messengers of your own come to you narrating My Messages, those who will walk aright and mend their ways, will have nothing to fear or grieve.

7:36 On the other hand, those who reject Our Revelations and scorn them, will dwell in the Hellfire to live therein, forever.

7:37 Who can do a greater wrong than the one who invents lies about Allah, or belies His Revelations? They get their due share according to the Law of Respite till Our couriers of death come to them saying, "Where are those on whom you called besides Allah?" They will respond, " They have left us hanging." Then they will testify against themselves that they had been disbelievers.

7:38 Allah will command them to join the previous rural and urban communities into the Fire. Every later group will blame the former, "Our Lord! These are the ones who misled us; double their punishment." He will say, "The punishment is doubled for both." (The first group violated the Laws and misled others, and the second group was guilty of blind following and misleading their successors).

7:39 The first nation will say to the last, "You are not the least bit better than us. So taste the doom for what you earned."

7:40 Those who deny Our Messages, and scorn them, the gates of Heaven will not be opened for them. And they will not enter the Garden until the camel goes through the eye of a needle. This is how We recompense the guilty. (Likewise nations that ignore the Divine Laws will utterly fail to establish a paradise on earth).

7:41 Hell is their bed and their covering as well. This is how We recompense the guilty, those who steal the fruit of others' labor and thus violate human rights. (Nations that fail to build their own

paradise on earth only lurk on hellish ground. They have a ceiling of chaos keeping them from rising in the community of nations).

7:42 On the other hand, those who attain conviction in Divine Laws and work to augment the individual and collective potential of humanity, will succeed in attaining paradise of their own making (3:136). (The paradise of people's own making will never be lost; it will be their heritage in the life to come 2:25, 3:133, 55: 45-47). We never assign goals to people that are beyond their capacity.

7:43 (In earthly life human beings conceal many negative feelings that they have towards others even though they may have cordial relations with them). We will remove all negative emotions from their hearts. There will be no such feelings amongst the dwellers of earthly and heavenly Paradise wherein streams will flow. (The blessings of such a Social Order would be everlasting!) They will say: “All Praise is due to Allah Who has guided us to such a beautiful destination. Without Divine guidance we would never have reached this place. Allah’s Messengers brought to us this Truth. It will be proclaimed: “This is the Paradise which you have inherited; and since you have inherited this Paradise as a result of your own effort, you will not be expelled from it.”

(In this Ideal Society, justice, and therefore, mutual trust will prevail. Rivers of aesthetic beauties will flow and provision will be abundant. When the basic needs of individuals are secure, they will have the chance to move toward the higher levels of self-actualization. Hence, negative emotions and behavior such as jealousy, selfishness, contempt, rancor, revenge and deceit shall vanish from their hearts. They will praise Allah in word and action for His Guidance, without which the Bliss wouldn't be possible. They will acknowledge that the Messengers of their Lord indeed came with the Absolute Truth. They will hear echoes of Conviction, "This is your Paradise. You have built it and you shall inherit it never to be lost again.”)

7:44 The dwellers of the Garden will call out to the dwellers of the Fire, “We have found that what Our Sustainer promised us has come true. Have you too, found that what your Sustainer promised you has come true?” They will answer, “Yes!” Then from their midst a voice will proclaim, “Allah rejects the oppressors who wrongfully violated human rights.”

7:45 They hindered men and women from the Path of Allah and tried to make it crooked, thus practically denying the Law of Requital and the life Hereafter.

7:46 Between the people of Paradise and Hell there will be a veil. On the Heights there will be people with insight who will recognize others by their looks. They will greet those who, in their estimate, are worthy of entering the Garden, with “Peace!” (2:143, 4:41, 56:10-11.)

(A barrier of distinction will exist between the heavenly and the hellish societies. On the heights of wisdom and knowledge will be some sincere leaders. They will recognize the strengths and the weaknesses of communities. Striving for peace and security, they will show the way to establish the right system to people who will be craving for it).

7:47 When they turn to the ones who have been living a hellish life, they will say, “Our Lord! Keep us away from the ways of the wrongdoers and violators of the human rights.”

7:48 The people on the Heights will recognize another group and say to them, “How did your multitude, the wealth you amassed and the things you took pride in, help you?”

[In my opinion, the people of Heights will advise corrective action to be taken against the hoarding of wealth, population explosion, and false pride of nations. JAM'UKUM = Your great numbers = Your multitude = Your hoards = Your hosts = What you have amassed]

7:49 And pointing to the dwellers of the Garden, they will say, “Are these not the people about whom you used to swear that Allah will never bestow His Grace upon them? They are entering the Garden where there will be no fear or grief.” (They will make it clear that the Divine Law favors no particular peoples. Obeying His Laws brings His Grace and Bounties”). Follow His Laws and, “Enter the paradise of your own making, the society where there shall be no fear nor grief.”

7:50 The dwellers of Hell will say to the dwellers of Paradise “Give us something of the life-giving resources and the provisions bestowed on you by Allah.” They will reply, “Allah has made these things forbidden to the rejecters of His Laws." (The hellish societies will expect Allah’s provisions to be granted to them as free-bees. They will be told that Allah’s Bounties can only be achieved by establishing the Right System, and His Law forbids these Bounties to the rejecters.

7:51 Those who took their religion as mere amusement and ritual partying, were deceived by immediate gains of the worldly life (6:70). We will forget them as they forgot the meeting of this Day, and rejected Our Revelations.

7:52 We have given them a Book of Knowledge that explains the Guidance in full detail. It is a Mercy for those who accept it. (It has the Power to change hellish societies into paradise on earth).

7:53 Are they waiting until the consequences stare them in their eyes? The Day the consequences appear, those who disregarded it will say, “The Messengers of our Lord did bring the Truth. Are there any intercessors to intercede on our behalf? Or can we be returned that we behave differently from our past?” They have put their “Self” in loss and their own forgery fails them. (They will seek mediation for their mutual conflicts and long for starting from scratch. Since they have hurt their "Self", they have lost the power of judgment and they would need help. They have been fabricating unworkable systems).

7:54 Verily, your Sustainer is Allah Who has created the heavens and the earth in six stages, and is established on the Throne of His Almightiness (10:3, 13:2). He draws the night over the day, each seeking the other in rapid succession. The sun, the moon, the stars are committed to serve by His Command. Listen and remember, to Him belongs the World of Creation, and to Him belongs the World of Command. Exalted, He is the Lord of the Worlds.

7:55 (He has the power to revive dead nations). Call unto your Lord humbly and in the secrecy of your hearts. He does not love those who transgress the bounds of what He has ordained as right.

7:56 Hence, do not spread corruption on earth after it has been set in order. Call unto Him in fear and hope. (Fear the consequences of violating His Commands and hope since you know His Promise is always true). Allah’s Mercy is close to the benefactors of humanity.

7:57 He is the One who sends pleasant winds bearing good news of the forthcoming rain of His blessings. When the winds carry the heavy clouds, We drive them to a land that is dead. The water

then causes all kinds of fruit and vegetation to sprout. This is how We can revive dead people and nations. Herein is a sign for those who pay heed.

7:58 The land that has been well prepared springs up rich produce by the Leave of its Lord. The land that has not been well prepared only yields scant vegetation. (Similar is the situation of nations that wish to come back to life. They need reform at the grassroots level). This is how We explain Our verses from various vantage points for those who are grateful to receive such clear Guidance.

7:59 (Now, We give you a brief resume of the previous Prophets and their nations for you to draw lessons). We sent Noah to his people. He said, “ O My people! Serve Allah. You have no other god beside Him. (If you reform not) I fear for you the retribution of an awesome day.”

7:60 The chiefs of his people said, "We surely see you in manifest error.”

7:61 Noah said, "O My people! There is no error in me. I am a Messenger from the Lord of the Worlds.

7:62 I only convey to you the Messages of my Lord. My advice is sincere to you and I know from Allah that which you know not.

7:63 Do you wonder that there has come to you a Reminder from your Lord through a man from amongst you - to warn you, and to show you the secure path so that you may flourish in Grace?”

7:64 But they denied him. So, We saved him and those with him in the ship, and drowned those who denied Our Revelations. Indeed they were folk blind in arrogance. (A great flood was about to come and Noah was informed. He and his followers built an Ark. They were with him in belief and in the ship, so were they saved).

7:65 To the people of Aad, We sent their brother, Hud. He said, “O My people! Serve Allah. You have no god beside Him. Don't you wish to walk aright?”

7:66 The elite among his people who were disbelieving said, "Ah! We see that you are in folly, and we think that you are a liar.”

7:67 He said, "O My people! There is no folly in me. I am a Messenger from the Lord of the Worlds.

7:68 I convey to you the Messages of my Lord, and I am a sincere and trustworthy adviser to you.

7:69 Do you wonder that there has come to you a Reminder from your Lord through a man from amongst you, to warn you? Recall that He made you successors to Noah’s people and gave you abundant power. Keep in mind Allah’s Authority and Blessings that you may continue to prosper.”

7:70 They said, "Have you come to us that we worship Allah alone and give up what our forefathers worshiped? Bring upon us what you threaten us with, if you are truthful.”

7:71 (Aad were powerful people but their society had gone unjust. Since there is a Law of Respite for nations, they flourished and were unable to see the wrong thus far). Hud said, "Allah’s Law of Requital is already hovering over you. Do you argue with me about certain names, false authorities

that you and your forefathers have fabricated? And Allah never authorized them (53:23). Then wait for the consequences, and I am also waiting."

7:72 (The people of Aad who inhabited a big empire in the North of Arabia, failed to heed the warning of the Prophet. Then hurricane winds annihilated them 41:16). We saved him and those with him by Mercy from Us, and cut the root of those who belied Our Messages and would not believe.

7:73 The people of Thamud were successors to Aad. To them We sent their brother, Saleh. He said, "O My people! Serve Allah. You have no other god but He. The Clear Truth has come to you from your Lord. This is the she-camel of Allah, a token for your obedience. So let her feed in Allah's earth and do not harm her lest painful torment seize you." (Their feudal lords controlled land, crop, oases and water resources, and the weak were suffering. Saleh assigned a she-camel as a symbol of their reformation).

7:74 Saleh said, "Remember how He made you inherit the land after Aad and established you therein. You build castles in the valleys and carve out homes in the mountains. So, remember Allah's bounties and do not spread corruption in the land."

7:75 Their leaders said to the believers, "How do you know that Saleh is sent from his Lord?" They responded, "We believe in the Message he has brought." (The bringer of such Sublime Message cannot be a liar).

7:76 (The arrogant leaders and the feudal lords could see their vested interests getting hit, so they decided to reject the Divine Message.) The arrogant ones said to the believers, "We reject what you believe in."

7:77 They killed the she-camel, rebelled against their Lord's Command and challenged, "O' Saleh! Bring the doom you threaten us with, if you are really a Messenger."

7:78 (In their life of luxury, like other strong nations they felt invincible.) The destruction came from under their feet. A powerful earthquake annihilated them, leaving them lifeless in their homes.

7:79 Saleh was grieved that his people disregarded the Message of his Lord. He moved away from the township saying to himself, "O My people! I gave my Lord's Message to you, and advised you sincerely, but you never liked good advisers."

7:80 (Hud, Saleh, and their respective followers, escaped destruction because they believed in the Revelation and took appropriate precautions. The people of Prophet Lot lived by the Dead Sea in Sodom.) Lot told them, "You commit such an abomination that no one in the worlds has done before you."

7:81 You approach men with lust in preference to women. Nay, but you are a people crossing all bounds."

7:82 They said, "Drive them out of your town! These people want to be models of purity."

7:83 We saved him and his followers. But his wife who lagged behind in belief stayed with the crowd, and was destroyed.

7:84 (It was the time when a huge volcano was about to erupt. The Prophet of God had advance knowledge and he moved out at the right time, along with his followers.) And We rained a rain upon them (a huge shower of stones). See now how grievous was the outcome of the guilty.

7:85 (And there was the Nation of Midyan that lived between Madinah and Damascus since around 2000 B.C. They were the descendants of Prophet Abraham's son MIDYAN from his third wife QATOORA. Most of them were traders but they squandered justice and equity in business.) We sent Shoaib (Jethro), their brother, to them (around 1300 BC). He said, “O My people! Obey Allah. There is none else worthy of obedience and Law-giving. Now has come to you the clear evidence of Truth from your Lord. Be loyal to measure and weight in all your dealings. Withhold not from people the things that are rightfully theirs. Do not corrupt the earth after it has been set straight. All this will be better for you if you would but believe.

Learn from history about the outcome of the corrupt and the bloody criminals.

7:86 Lurk not on every road threatening travelers, and hindering from the Path of Allah those who believe in Him. Nor seek to make it crooked. Remember, when you were few and weak and how He multiplied and strengthened you. Learn from history about the outcome of the corrupt and the bloody criminals.

7:87 A group among you has believed in what I have been sent with and the other group has not believed. Then have patience (let the believers work their program of reform), until Allah judges between us. He is the Best of deciders."

7:88 The arrogant leaders of his community said, "O Shoaib! We will certainly drive you and those who believe with you out of our town unless you return to our ways.” Shoaib said, "Why, even though we detest your ways?”

7:89 “Shall we forge a lie against Allah by embracing your ways when He has rescued us from the wrong? How could we revert to your ways and thus violate the Will of Allah, our Sustainer? Our Lord encompasses all things in Knowledge, (and He knows what is right and what is wrong). In Allah do we put our trust. O Our Lord! Make the Truth triumph between our people and us. You are the best Exponent of the Truth.”

7:90 But the disbelieving chiefs of his nation said, "O People! If you follow Shoaib, then truly we will be ruined (as we lose the big profits in our trade).”

7:91 A tremendous earthquake seized them and the morning found them dead in their homes, on the ground.

7:92 Those who denied Shoaib became as though they had never lived there. Those who denied Shoaib, were the losers.

7:93 (The Prophet of God had been forewarned of the oncoming catastrophe and he moved out into the valley along with his followers.) As he was leaving, he said, "O My people! I delivered my Lord’s Messages to you and gave you sincere advice. How could I mourn for people who rejected the Truth?”

7:94 We sent no Prophet to a community without Our Law of Requital trying them with adversity and tribulation for their wrongdoings, so that they become humble.

7:95 Then We changed their plight for good till they became affluent. Then they said, “(Hardships and prosperity are just a matter of chance). Even our parents and forefathers have gone through these ups and downs.” Our Requital seized them when they least expected it. (To them it appeared sudden, but unjust systems insidiously move towards the consequences).

7:96 If the people of the towns had believed in the Divine Laws and run their system aright, We would have opened for them blessings from the heaven and the earth. But they denied and what they earned with their deeds seized them.

7:97 Can the people of any community ever feel secure that Our Requital will not come upon them at night, while they are asleep?

7:98 Or do the people of townships feel secure from the coming of Our Requital upon them in the daytime while they play?

7:99 Do they feel secure from the subtle progression of the Divine Laws? Do they think that the Divine Law grants them unconditional security? Only the losers feel secure from the subtle progression of Allah’s Law of Requital.

7:100 Is it not a lesson for those who inherit the earth from previous generations that they could suffer similar consequences? Trailing behind in the community of nations is a tribulation in itself. And Our Law can cause their intellectual and perceptual faculties to be sealed and blunted for their failings.

7:101 Such were the communities whose historical accounts We relate to you (O Prophet). Their Messengers came to them with clear evidence of Truth. But they preemptively rejected it, and then stuck to rejection. Or they denied the Truth in blind following since their ancestors had denied it. This is how the rejecters cause Allah’s Law to seal their hearts to reason.

7:102 And in most of them We found no bond with their honored stature of humanity (17:70). And We found that most of them slip away from the Permanent Values.

7:103 (Here is another historical account. Moses was the next generation to Shoaib. After the Midyans had risen and declined in the previous millennium), We sent Moses to Pharaoh and his chiefs with Our Revelations and they willfully rejected them. Now see the consequence of the corrupters.

7:104 Moses said, "O Pharaoh! I am a Messenger from the Lord of the Worlds.

7:105 It is incumbent upon me that I say about God nothing but the Truth. I come to you with clear evidence of the Truth from your Lord. So let the Children of Israel go with me.”

7:106 Pharaoh said, “If you have come with clear evidence, produce it if you are of the truthful.”

7:107 Moses presented his argument that he held fast, with vibrant confidence and logic.

7:108 The strength of his conviction shone bright to those present (20:17-21).

7:109 The chiefs of Pharaoh's nation said, "This is some knowing wizard!

7:110 It appears to us that Moses, after gaining some following, plans to throw you out of your land.” Said Pharaoh, “Now, what do you advise?”

7:111 After consulting among themselves, the chiefs said, "Put his and his brother, Aaron’s matter on hold and send to cities couriers.

7:112 To bring all master debaters to your court.”

7:113 The master debaters came to Pharaoh. They said, “Surely there will be reward for us if we are victors.”

7:114 He answered, “Yes, verily, and you will be among those who are close to me.”

7:115 The debaters said, “O Moses! Either you begin or let us be the first to present our case.”

7:116 Moses asked them to begin. When they began they cast a spell on the people’s eyes, and struck them with awe, and stunned the assembly with their spellbinding eloquence.

7:117 We inspired Moses to respond with Conviction, and it swallowed the deceptive rhetoric of the debaters.

7:118 The Truth prevailed and their arguments were manifestly proven false.

7:119 Thus were they defeated right there and humiliated.

7:120 The debaters fell down prostrate.

7:121 They were convinced and said, "We believe in the Lord of the Worlds.

7:122 The Lord of Moses and Aaron.”

7:123 Pharaoh got annoyed, "You believe in Him before I give you permission! This is a political conspiracy you all have made up in the city, so that you get my subjects out on the streets in rebellion and topple the government. You will see the punishment very soon.

7:124 I will immobilize you in handcuffs and fetters. Then I will crucify every one of you." (Cutting off of the hands and feet on the alternate side refers to immobilization otherwise crucifixion won’t be necessary.)

7:125 They responded, "We are determined to turn to the Way of our Lord.”

7:126 "Will you persecute us simply because we believed in the Revelations of our Lord when they came to us? Our Lord! Strengthen our resolve and make us die as those who have surrendered to You.”

7:127 The chiefs among Pharaoh's people said, "Will you allow Moses and his people to create disorder in the land, and forsake your rule and your gods?” He said, "We will slay their sons and spare their women. We are in power over them.”

7:128 Moses assured his people, “Seek help in Allah and endure. Following the Divine Commands will empower you. The earth belongs to Allah, and not to any tyrants. He grants it to His servants according to His Laws (21:105). The ultimate success belongs to those who walk aright in the Divine Light.”

7:129 Fearing persecution they said, "We suffered before you came to us and after you have come to us.” Moses said, “Your Lord will annihilate your enemy, and you will inherit the earth. Then He will see what kind of works you do.”

7:130 The unjust system of Pharaoh and his people began to waver (7:94). When Our Requital struck them with famine, and scanty crop (they found themselves ill prepared for the relief efforts). They should have stopped to think.

7:131 (Instead of reflecting and taking corrective action, they sought the easy way out.) All good that came along, they ascribed it to their own worthiness, and any affliction that struck them, they blamed it on the bad omen of Moses and his companions. Most people know not that there is no such thing as a bad omen or a good omen. People determine their destiny according to Allah’s Laws. In that sense, then, omens are with Allah alone.

7:132 They kept telling Moses, “Whatever the Verses might say, whatever bad omens you could bring, or bewitch us with your logic, we will not believe in you” (and will not consider moral reformation).

7:133 Their System was too inefficient to fight off natural calamities, such as, floods, swarms of locusts, diseases of crops, livestock and humans. These were open signs for them to wake up to reform, but Pharaoh and his chiefs were too arrogant to accept responsibility, and too involved in luxury to take action. They were guilty of misrule.

7:134 (The irrational Egyptians continued to remain sunken in superstition.) Whenever hardship struck, they turned to Moses for prayer stating that Allah had a pledge with him, and promising that they would believe and let the Children of Israel go with him. (They did not understand that the pledge of Allah with His Messenger was only that of obeying His Commands and His blessings in return. It did not involve any supernatural phenomena such as miracles).

7:135 When the hardship ran its course according to Our Laws, they would break their promise with Moses.

7:136 They had to meet with Our Law of Requital as they continued to deny Our Revelations and remained heedless. Instead of mending their ways, they tried to annihilate Moses and his people and We drowned them in the sea as they were pursuing Moses and his people, in rage and arrogance.

7:137 We made the oppressed people inherit the east and the west of the land that We had blessed with abundant provision. The Commands of your Lord were fulfilled for the Children of Israel to reward them for their steadfastness. Pharaoh and his people eventually met destruction for violating Our Laws. And We mingled with dust, the great works and fine buildings, temples, palaces, tombs, statues and stately structures of all kinds that Pharaoh and his people had built with so much skill and pride. (The Children of Israel later inherited a sizeable and highly prosperous kingdom including Syria and Palestine under David and Solomon).

7:138 After they crossed the sea (into Sinai 2: 50-51), the Children of Israel passed by some people who were worshiping statues. They said, ‘O’ Moses! Make a god for us, like the gods they have.” Moses said, "You are a folk who wish to lurk in darkness.

7:139 What these idol worshipers are doing is senseless and vain.

7:140 Shall I seek a god for you other than Allah, when He has blessed you more than the other existing nations?"

7:141 Remember, We delivered you from Pharaoh's folk as they were persecuting you. They killed your sons and spared your women. This was a great tribulation you incurred according to the Laws of your Lord, since you had divided among yourselves and became weak (28:4).

7:142 We summoned Moses for one month and ten days to instruct him about the future program (2:51). The complete term would take forty nights, in two stages of thirty and ten to make it easy for him. Before leaving for Mount Sinai, Moses assigned his brother Aaron, as his deputy and told him to keep social order after him and not to be intimidated by the problem makers.

7:143 When Moses arrived at the appointed time, and his Lord spoke to him, Moses said, "My Lord! Show me Yourself, such that I can see You." His Lord said, "You cannot see Me. The best way to see Me is to look at this mountain and think. If you contemplate, you will understand that even a single mountain is made of countless atoms that were scattered. Then consider that you have seen Me." Realizing this, Moses imagined the Glory of His Lord through His signs in the Universe. He was stunned and when he recovered his senses, he said, "Infinite are You in Your Glory! I feel embarrassed and repent at my question. I am among the foremost believers.” (The 7,359 feet high Mount Sinai is standing to this day. Therefore contrary to popular literal translation of this verse, its understanding in allegorical terms is preferred. Also, a Prophet of God is unlikely to make a demand to behold God in physical form).

7:144 God said, “O Moses! "I have chosen you to be My Messenger and convey My Word to the people. I have given to you My Messages and spoken to you. Hold on to these Commands and be appreciative by sharing My Bounty of Revelations with people.”

7:145 We ordained for him in, the Tablets of Law, Enlightenment and clearly spelled out Guidance. And told him, “Uphold these teachings strongly, and tell your people to uphold them. These are excellent teachings. I will soon let you and your people see (how blessed the outcome of compliance will be and) to which abode the drifters will be headed (39:18).”

7:146 The Law stands* that those who are proud on earth without justification will turn away from My revelations. Even if they went through the entire script, and saw clear evidence of the Truth, their arrogance will keep them from believing. When they see the right guidance, they do not accept it, but they readily accept straying. This is because they choose to preemptively deny Our Revelations and to remain unaware of the wisdom in them. (*The consequences according to the Law of Requital, Allah ascribes to Himself, such as “Allah did it.”)

7:147 Those who deny our Messages and the meeting of the Hereafter, their works are fruitless. Are they rewarded anything but what they deserved for their decisions? [Human beings should remember that every action has a consequence and it gets imprinted on the “Self”. While every tomorrow is the AKHIRA (after) of today, the final Judgment and Recompense for us rests with the life to come].

7:148 The people of Moses made up a calf out of their ornaments while Moses was on the Mount Sinai. They made it such that blowing into it produced a lowing sound. They didn't even see that it couldn't talk to them or show them any way. Still they chose it as a god, and thus wronged their own “Self”.

7:149 When they regretted their action and realized that they had gone astray, they said, “Unless our Lord embraces us with Mercy and forgives us, we surely will be lost.’

7:150 Moses returned to his people and was upset and grieved. He said, “You have chosen a terrible thing after me. Do you wish your Lord’s Law of Requital to smite you soon (20:86)? He placed the tablets of the Commands among them and questioned his brother, Aaron, very strictly. Aaron explained, "O Son of my mother! These people treated me harshly and took my patience as weakness, and almost killed me. Let not my opponents rejoice, and count me not among the wrongdoers." (Seizing the beard and head is indicative of interrogating harshly. Aaron had been extra patient with their idolatry to avoid division among them (20:94). Aaron, the Prophet of God, preferred SHIRK over Sectarianism. This is how reprehensible sectarianism and division in religion is).

7:151 Moses said, “My Lord! Forgive me, and my brother and admit us in Your Grace. You are the Most Merciful among the gracious.”

7:152 Those who chose the calf for worship, have incurred their Lord’s Requital, and humiliation in the life of this world. Thus do We requite those who invent a lie.

7:153 Those who have done ill deeds, but then repent and attain belief, for them, afterward, Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

7:154 When Moses calmed down, he picked up the tablets, on which was inscribed Merciful Guidance for those who fear violating the Law of their Lord.

7:155 Moses planned for the future. He appointed seventy of his people as officers to prevent the nation from wavering. An earthquake shook them (2:55) and Moses said, “My Lord! You could have destroyed them and me before, if You so willed (when they asked to see God in physical form 2:55). Would you destroy us for the actions of the ignorant among us? This must be Your trial for us. You have appointed Laws of straying and guidance. You are our Protecting Friend. Forgive us and have Mercy on us. You are the Best of forgivers.

7:156 Ordain for us the good in this world and in the Hereafter. We turn to You with conviction in Your Guidance.” God responded, “My punishment is but the Law of Requital, and My Mercy embraces all things. I will specify My Mercy to those who walk aright, spend their wealth on community welfare, and practically believe in Our Revelations.”

7:157 (Now the Law has been revealed to Prophet Muhammad.) Follow the Messenger, the Prophet who is a non-Israelite, and who was unlettered before the Revelation (29:48). They find him well described* in the Torah and the Gospel with them. He enjoins upon them the Right, and forbids them the Wrong. He declares Lawful all good things, and declares Unlawful only the unclean things. He relieves people from the burdens they carried. He breaks the shackles that they used to wear, of mental and physical slavery, and brings them from darkness to Light (5:15-16, 65:11, 76:4). Those who believe in him, honor him, support him, and follow the Light that came with him, are the eternally successful. *(Deuteronomy xviii, 15 and 18. Gospel of John 14:16,

15:26, 16:7 PARACLETOS = COMFORTER, from original Greek PERICLYTOS = THE PRAISED ONE. In Aramaic, MAWHAMANA = THE PRAISED ONE)

7:158 Say, "O Mankind! I am Allah's Messenger to all of you (beyond temporal and geographical bounds). The Messenger of Him to Whom belongs the Dominion of the heavens and the earth. There is no god but He. He has Absolute Control over the fountain spring of life and over the Laws of transition to death. So, believe in Allah and His Messenger, the Prophet to whose people no Scripture was given before, and who believes in Allah and in His Words. Follow him so that you may be rightly guided."

7:159 The people of Moses were given similar guidance and a section among them was guided and did justice in Truth.

7:160 We set up twelve tribal communities among the Israelites for effective administration. When his people asked for water, We revealed to Moses, "Strike the rock with your staff!" And twelve springs gushed forth from there. (Remember the times when you were in the Sinai desert and there was shortage of water. Moses asked for water for his people and We guided him to a rock under which were hidden twelve springs of water ready to gush forth. Moses, with the strength of his conviction and with the help of his companions, unclogged those springs and each of the twelve tribes found their respective source of fresh cool water 2:60). Moses had established the Divine system of life. We shall open the Blessings of the heavens and the earth for any nation that accepts these Laws and works for the collective good of humanity. Such abundance with equity is no less than a heavenly "Table spread" that ensures freedom from want for all, in the shadow of Divine Grace. They enjoyed delicious bird meat and vegetation they had grown in the oasis of their own making. That is what the people of Moses were given, "Eat of the good things that We have provided you." After a time, the corrupters in that wonderful society started dissenting. Did they harm us? Nay, they harmed their own "Self".

7:161 And remember, when it was said to them, "Dwell in this town, enjoy Our bounties all along and remain humble before Our Commands. As soon as you enter the gate, your wandering in the desert will end*. Remain submissive and We will forgive your faults. We increase the reward for those who benefit humanity." (2:58) Then We commanded you, "Enter the Sacred Land (of Palestine 5:21) and enjoy the provisions; eat from where you want. Enter the gate humbly and say, HITTATUN, 'Our Lord! Absolve our misdeeds, we mend our ways.' Then do what you say and We shall forgive you your misdeeds and amply reward the doers of good."

7:162 But, some of the wrongdoers began changing the Word of God that was taught to them, and displaced it with their own fabrications. And that resulted in a change in behavior. Our Heavenly Law of Requital caused them to weaken and waver, for they violated the Commands (2:59-61). Detachment from the Ideology made them lose their strength (5:22-24).

7:163 Ask the Israelites about the township (Elat) that was located by the sea, and they had violated the Sabbath. The big fish used to come on the surface in abundance on their day of Sabbath, feeling secure, and did not come up on other days. (But the community failed to persevere, and broke the Sabbath to get a good catch). Thus We tested them to see for themselves how they drift away from discipline.

7:164 The kind-hearted among them kept reminding the violators. And others said, "Why do you preach a people whom Allah's Requital is going to destroy or punish them with a severe torment?"

The counselors said, “In order to be free of guilt before your Lord that we failed to advise. And in the hope that they walk aright.”

7:165 When they disregarded the reminders, We saved the ones who admonished them. And punished those who transgressed and drifted away from the Command.

7:166 As they persisted with their rebellious behavior, Our Law caused their disposition take a downward turn and they developed apish mentality. We told them, “Be the living symbols of humiliation.”

7:167 And remember, your Lord proclaimed that He would raise against them till the Day of Resurrection, people who will persecute them. Your Lord is Swift in Retribution, yet any peoples who mend their ways, will find Him Forgiving, Merciful.

7:168 Our Law caused them to scatter in the earth as sections. Among them some are righteous, and some are opposite. Through the turns of history We have caused them to experience easy and difficult times, in order that they might return to Our Laws.

7:169 But, the succeeding generations that inherited the Scripture, did no better. They became more materialistic, falling for instant gains. Yet, they insist, “We will be forgiven,” and won’t have to account for it. And they keep longing for material gains. Didn’t they promise to uphold the Scripture, and not to say about God but the Truth? And they have studied the Commands in it! The long-term benefit and the abode of the Hereafter are better for those who deal justly with people and walk aright. Do you not use sense?

7:170 Those who hold fast to the Book of Allah, and strive to establish the Divine System, should know that We never squander the reward of the righteous.

7:171 They must recall that the Mount Sinai stands over them as a telling Witness. The mountain could shake with a quake and fall to be level with them but the Divine Guidance is the unwavering Truth (13:31, 59:61). We said, “Hold fast the Scripture We have given you and work the teachings in it, so that you may live upright.”

7:172 Your Lord brought forth generations from the Children of Adam, and they have been the living testimony that He creates and provides them with sustenance. “Am I not your Sustainer?” They practically admit, “Yes, verily. We testify.” Thus you cannot say on the Resurrection Day, “We were not aware of this.”

7:173 Nor will any excuse avail them such as, “It was our forefathers who took false gods and we inherited their belief system. Will you punish us for what falsehood others practiced?” (You will not be questioned what others used to do. No one will bear the load of another 2:134, 39:7).

7:174 We explain Our Verses in detail so that people turn towards the Book.

7:175 And tell them what happens to him whom We have conveyed Our Messages and he passes them by. So his selfish desire overtakes him, and he becomes of those who lose their way.

7:176 He could have raised himself in honor according to Our Laws, but he clung to the earth and followed his own desire. Therefore his likeness is as the likeness of a dog. Whether you pet him or scold him, he pants. Such is the example of people who deny Our Revelations in practice. (The

Revelation of Allah lightens your burdens, while man-made dogmas burden you 7:157). So relate this narration that they may reflect.

7:177 Indeed, pitiable is the example of those who reject Our Verses, since they hurt their own “Self”.

7:178 Whoever attains Allah’s Guidance according to His Laws is led aright. And goes astray he who violates Allah’s Law of Guidance. (4:88).

7:179 Our Law has committed to Hell numerous people, rural and urban; they are living the life of hell. They have hearts that they use not to understand. They have eyes with which they see not, and ears with which they hear not. They are like cattle. Nay, they are even worse. Such are the people who have chosen to live through life in total darkness of ignorance.

7:180 All Names of Allah are the fairest names. You can invoke Him by any of them. Be mindful not to over-emphasize a single attribute of His. (For example, the Merciful God is also a Just God). Disregard those who distort His Names or the meaning of His Attributes (like calling Him, father, son, the man upstairs, the destroyer etc.) Be assured that all of you will be rewarded according to your doings, and by no other criterion.

7:181 Among the communities We have created there have been those who guide with Truth and establish justice with it.

7:182 And those who deny Our Revelations, Our Law of Requital leads them in stages to the miserable destination they have no idea of.

7:183 I give them respite but My Law of Requital is designed to be strong.

7:184 Has it never occurred to them that there is no madness whatever in their fellow-man? He has lived a whole life among you (10:16). He is only a plain Warner.

7:185 Can they not see (and correlate what he tells them with) the Dominion of the heavens and the earth and what Allah has created? Does it ever occur to them that the end of their own life may be near (hence the time to make the right decisions is not unlimited)? What HADITH besides the Qur’an, are they going to believe after him?

7:186 There is no guide for him who misleads himself by violating Allah’s Law of Guidance. When he leaves the Law, the Law leaves him wandering in the wilderness of arrogant trespassing (2:15).

7:187 (They even venture into predicting the end of the world.) They ask you (O Messenger), about the Hour, when the end of the world will come to pass. Say, "That knowledge is only with my Lord. He alone will manifest it at the appropriate time. Heavy it is in the heavens and the earth. It will come upon you suddenly". They ask you as if you could gain insight into this mystery with persistent inquiry. Say, “The knowledge thereof is with Allah only. But most people do not know that even Messengers were not given this knowledge.”

7:188 Say, "I do not even have the power to benefit myself or to avert harm to myself, contrary to the Laws of Allah. Had I the knowledge of what is beyond the reach of human perception, I would have amassed abundant fortune, and no adversity would ever touch me. I am but a Warner and a bearer of good news for those who believe in the Message".

7:189 (The Message encompasses life in its totality.) Recall that Allah created life from a single life cell, then made male and female cells, and then shaped you into human beings, males and females. He designed it such that man might incline with love towards the woman. When he gets intimate with her, she carries a light load that she can hardly notice. As she grows heavy with the child, they both implore Allah, their Lord, “If you indeed grant us a healthy baby, we shall certainly be among the grateful.”

7:190 But as soon as He grants them a sound baby, they begin to ascribe to other powers beside Him a share in bringing about what He has granted them. Exalted is He, High Above all that they associate with Him.

7:191 Do they ascribe to Him as partners things that can create nothing, but are themselves created?

7:192 And they cannot help them, nor can they help themselves.

7:193 When you invite them to the Guidance, they follow you not. It is the same for you whether you invite them or remain silent.

7:194 Those whom you call upon besides Allah, such as mystics and saints, are people like you. Go ahead and call upon them, let them respond by helping you if you are true in your belief.

7:195 Do the idols have feet to walk, hands to hold, eyes to see and ears to hear? (Likewise, these human demigods have no foundation of Truth to stand on, nor the power to avert Requital, nor the faculties of confronting Reason). Tell the opponents of the Message, "Call upon your idols and your so-called partners of Allah, contrive what you can, and give me no respite.

7:196 My Protecting Friend is Allah Who has revealed this Book, and He befriends the righteous.”

7:197 Whomever you call instead of Him, have no power to help you, nor can they help themselves.

7:198 Such people are lost in their reverence of false deities. When you invite them to Guidance, they hear without listening and you see them looking at you, but they see not.

7:199 (O Prophet) hold to pardon, and go ahead with your program of enjoining virtue and disregard the behavior of those who adamantly remain ignorant.

7:200 Seek refuge in Allah’s Laws by staying alert to any covert actions of the satanic opponents. He is Hearer, Knower.

7:201 Those who are mindful of Allah’s Laws, stay alert to the covert actions of the hinderers and see them with an observant mind.

7:202 The hinderers and their comrades plunge one another deeper into error, and cease not.

7:203 When you do not produce a miracle that they demand, they say, “Why not ask God for it?” Say, "I simply follow and convey what is revealed to me from my Lord". These verses are the enlightening miracle from your Lord, the Guidance and Grace for those who accept them.

7:204 When the Qur'an is read, listen to it with full attention, and listen to it silently, that you may receive Mercy.

7:205 Remember your Sustainer within yourself humbly and in reverence, and without raising your voice, morning and evening. Be not among the neglectful.

7:206 Those who are with your Lord (truly God conscious), are never too proud to serve Him. They strive to establish His Glory on earth by adoring Him and submitting to His Commands.

## Surah 8 – Al-Anfal – The Spoils of War

[Author's note] This is the 8th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 75 verses. One of the great Revolutions that the Exalted Messenger brought about, along with the Qur'an, was to ban all raids and ambushes. The negative incentive of tribal battles used to be the achievement of spoils of war. The Divine Decree forbade it and allowed to pick up arms only for self-defense and to remove tyranny. The spoils of war can only be legitimate when believers have engaged in the defense of the Divine Order.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

8:1 They ask you (O Messenger), about the spoils of war. Say, "The spoils of war belong to Allah and the Messenger (The Central Authority). Be mindful of Allah's Commands and maintain the bonds of brotherhood among you. Obey Allah and the Messenger if you are believers.

8:2 The true believers are those who feel a tremor in their hearts when Allah is mentioned. (They beat synchronously with the Commands of Allah). And when His Revelations are conveyed to them, they find their faith strengthened. They do their best and then put their trust in their Lord.

8:3 They help establish the Divine System and keep the provision that We have given them, open for the good of humanity.

8:4 Such are the true believers. They have high ranks with their Lord and for them is the security of forgiveness and honorable provision.

8:5 (When the time came to defend the Ideological State of Madinah), your Lord commanded you (O Prophet) to go forth from your home with the conviction that the Truth was on your side. And some of the believers were reluctant.

8:6 (They argued whether to meet the aggressor outside Madinah at Badr, or wait.) And they disputed with you about it after the decision had been made manifest in mutual consultations, as if they were being driven to obvious death.

8:7 Allah promised you engagement and victory against one of the two groups. You preferred to face the weaker group, but Allah willed the Truth to prevail according to His Words and soundly defeat the aggressive disbelievers.

8:8 (That was your first armed confrontation with the opponents in which you were greatly outnumbered and ill equipped.) For He has decreed that the Truth shall triumph, and the falsehood shall vanish, even as the guilty detest it.

8:9 You sought help from your Lord and He assured you, “I will help you with a thousand of the angels, rank upon rank.”

8:10 Allah ordained this (allegory) as good news of success, to instill tranquility in your hearts. Victory is achieved only according to the Laws of Allah. He is Powerful, Wise. (These Divine Attributes should draw your attention to organized force and sound planning).

8:11 Remember how it was when He caused inner calm to enfold you, as an assurance from Him, and sent down upon you water from the sky. That He might refresh you and free you from the fear of the satanic act of the enemy (as they confiscated the water wells). Thus He strengthened your hearts and made firm your foothold.

8:12 This is how your Lord inspired the angels, “I am with you. So make the believers stand firm. I will cast terror in the hearts of the rejecters of the Truth. Launch a swift hard strike to disillusion their command and scatter the soldiers."

8:13 That is because they opposed Allah and His Messenger. Whoever opposes Allah and His Messenger, for him, Allah is Strict in Retribution.

8:14 That is the punishment, so taste it. And there is the torment of Fire for the rejecters.

8:15 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Never turn your backs when you meet the rejecters in battle.

8:16 Anyone who turns back on that day, unless strategically or to join his own troops, incurs Allah’s disapproval. His abode shall be Hell, a miserable destination.

8:17 You subdued them not, Allah did. You threw not the arrows, Allah did. For, Allah had permitted you to repel the aggression. He gives the believers a chance to earn credit from Him. Allah is Hearer, Knower.

8:18 That is the case; and know that Allah makes weak the scheme of the rejecters.

8:19 (O Disbelievers), You sought victory, and the victory has come. (If you reflect, the triumph of the Truth is the victory for all, including yourselves). If you refrain from aggression, it will be better for you. But, if you return, so shall We. Your armies will not avail you, no matter how numerous. Allah is with the believers.

8:20 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Obey Allah and His Messenger. Listen to him when he speaks, without getting distracted.

8:21 Be not like those who say that they hear, while they hear not.

8:22 The worst of creations in the Sight of Allah are those deaf, those dumb who do not use their intellect (2:18, 16:76).

8:23 If Allah had seen any good in them, He would have made them hear. But, even if He made them hear, they would have turned away. (The perceptual and conceptual, both faculties must be used for understanding and attaining guidance 17:36).

8:24 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Obey Allah and respond to the Messenger. He calls you to what gives you real life. And know that Allah is closer to humans than their own hearts. And His Guidance intervenes between your determination and your desires (53:24). Unto Him you will be gathered.

8:25 Beware of a tribulation that may not be limited to the wrongdoers among you. Know that Allah is strict in retribution. (There is a strong link between individual and collective good).

8:26 Recall when you were few and oppressed in the land (Makkah) and fearful lest people do away with you. He gave you shelter (in Madinah), strengthened you with His help and gave you decent provision. Be grateful in word and action.

8:27 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Betray not Allah and His Messenger (the Central Authority), nor betray people who trust you, nor be lax in your duties knowingly.

8:28 Know that your wealth and your children are a test for you. (Spend your wealth in Allah's Cause, provide good education and training to your children) and know that with Allah is immense reward.

8:29 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! If you remain mindful of Allah's Laws, He will give you distinction among the community of nations and grant you clear discernment between Right and Wrong. He will absolve your imperfections and grant you the protection of forgiveness. Allah is of Infinite bounty.

8:30 Remember (O Messenger), when the rejecters were making schemes to arrest you, slay you, or expel you. That was their plan, but Allah's Law of Requital is designed to work in a way unfailing. Allah is the Best of planners.

8:31 When Our Messages are conveyed to them, they say, "We have heard. If we wish, we can speak like it. This is nothing but fables of the ancient."

8:32 They went ahead saying, "O Allah! If this is indeed the Truth from You, then shower upon us rocks from the sky or bring on us a painful suffering."

8:33 But, Allah did not intend to punish them when you (O Messenger), were among their midst (in Makkah, still preaching). And He would not punish them while they might seek forgiveness.

8:34 Now is a new situation. Have they not deserved Allah's Requital when they are hindering His servants from the Sacred Masjid of Makkah, even though they are not its guardians? Its guardians can only be those who are mindful of Allah's Laws. Most of them don't even know how awesome this responsibility is.

8:35 What is their worship at the House of Allah but whistling and clapping? Therefore it is said to them, "Taste of the Retribution for your rejection of the Truth." (Any people who plunge in ritualistic worship, trail behind in action and incur suffering).

8:36 Those who are bent upon denying the Truth, spend their riches to hinder people from the Path of Allah. They will spend it, then it will become anguish for them, and they will be overcome. And the rejecters of the Truth will be gathered to Hell.

8:37 Allah will distinguish the bad from the good, then pile the bad on top of one another and cast them together in the Hellfire. They are truly the losers. (The clans of rejecters will join hands to fight the believers, but the battleground will become Hell for them).

8:38 (O Prophet) Tell the disbelievers that if they cease hostilities, all their past will be forgiven. But if they return, they will meet the example of the old nations.

8:39 Fight and subdue those who persist in aggression until persecution is no more, and absolute freedom of religion is established. People must be able to adopt a religion only for God’s Approval, and as free choice (2:193, 12:108). If they cease from aggression, Allah is the Seer of their actions, and therefore you shall leave them alone.

8:40 (Be magnanimous in treating them) knowing that if they returned to their previous ways, Allah is your Lord Supreme. And how excellent is this Lord Supreme, and how excellent is this Giver of help!

8:41 (You ask about the distribution of the spoils of war when you fight aggression and attain victory.) Whatever you take as spoils of war, a fifth of that is for Allah and for the Messenger (the Central Authority, to run the government). The rest will belong to the families of soldiers who laid their lives defending the State, the orphans, those left alone in the society, the widows, the ones whose income has stalled for any reason, the needy wayfarer, and whoever travels to the believers in a destitute condition. This is if you believe in Allah and in what We revealed to Our servant when the two armies met (at Badr) on the Day of Distinction. Allah is the Appointer of due measure for all things.

8:42 You were on the Northern, Madinah side of the Valley of Badr, and they were on the Southern, Makkah side of the Valley. And the caravan of the Makkans was proceeding south along the low Western coast, from Syria to Makkah. Had you attacked the caravan, it would not have accomplished Allah’s Will. He wanted you to have a decisive victory over the hostile army. Allah had decreed that the Truth shall survive and falsehood shall vanish. Allah is Hearer, Knower.

8:43 Allah made them few in your vision (O Messenger). Had He made them appear more numerous (if you got intimidated by their great numbers), you believers would have failed. And you would have disputed among yourselves whether to fight them at Badr was a good idea. But Allah saved you believers from faltering. He knew the resolve in your hearts.

8:44 When the two armies faced each other, He made them appear few in your eyes, and made you appear few in their eyes (3:12). Allah willed that to be the Day of Distinction. All matters go back to Allah’s Laws as their source.

8:45 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Whenever you meet an army, hold firm and remember Allah’s Laws of achieving victory so that you may be successful (8:10).

8:46 Obey Allah and His Messenger, the Central Authority, and do not fall into disputation. If you did that, you will falter and your strength will depart from you. Be proactively steadfast since Allah is with those who persevere both in times of affluence and in times of adversity.

8:47 Do not be like the disbelievers who come out of their homes boastfully and to show off, although they come forth to hinder people from the Path of Allah. Allah encompasses all actions that people do.

8:48 There was a group of Satanic conspirators, the hypocrites, who praised the disbelievers' actions, "You cannot be overcome by any people today, and we will be fighting along with you as allies." But as soon as the two armies came face to face, they turned back on their heels and fled, saying, "We disown you, We see what you don't. We are afraid of Allah Who has instilled faith in the hearts of the believers. Allah is strict in punishment."

8:49 The hypocrites, and those who harbor doubts in their hearts, taunted the believers, "Their religion has deluded them." (The believers were not deluded or arrogant. They had put their trust in Allah). Whoever puts his trust in Allah, will find that Allah is Mighty, Wise.

8:50 Only if you could perceive how the rejecters leave this world, as the angels put them to death. It is as if they are smiting their faces and backs, "Taste the doom of burning."

8:51 "It is the result of your deeds that you sent forth with your own hands. Allah is never a tyrant to His servants."

8:52 (They were made aware of history but) they ended up like Pharaoh's people, and nations before them. They rejected Allah's Messages, kept trailing behind in the Permanent Values, hence, the Law of Requital seized them. Allah is Strong, Strict in Retribution.

8:53 Allah never changes a Blessing He has bestowed upon a nation until they first change themselves (13:11). The Hearer, the Knower, announces this Law to you.

8:54 Pharaoh's people and those before them are examples. They denied the Messages of their Lord. They trailed behind in humanity and Our Law of Requital annihilated them. Pharaoh's people were drowned. All these nations had displaced justice with injustice and used to violate human rights.

8:55 The worst among creatures in Allah's Sight are those who are bent on denying the Truth. They show ingratitude by not using their God-given faculties and thus fail to believe.

8:56 Those with whom you have made a peace treaty, and then at every opportunity they break their treaty, certainly violate the Divine Laws.

8:57 When you encounter them in war, deal with them to set an example for those who come after them, that they may remember.

8:58 If you anticipate treachery and breach of treaty, then fairly return the treaty back to them. Allah does not love the treacherous.

8:59 Let not the rejecters suppose that they can get away with their violations. They cannot escape the Law of Requital.

8:60 Make ready for them all the power you can muster, and all the equipment you can mobilize so that you may deter the enemies of Allah, and your enemies. And others beside them whom you

know not, Allah knows them. Whatever wealth and effort you spend on your defenses, will be your spending in the Cause of Allah, and it will be repaid to you generously. And you shall not be wronged.

8:61 When they incline to peace, you shall incline to it, and trust in Allah. He is the Hearer, the Knower.

8:62 And if they would deceive you, Allah is Sufficient for you. He has strengthened you (O Messenger) with His support, and by the believers. (An offer of peace may not be rejected in suspicion 6:52, 18:28, 48:29).

8:63 Allah has brought together the hearts of the believers. If you (O Messenger) had spent all that is in the earth, you could not have produced that affection, but Allah has done it. (The Divine Ideology has attuned the believers). Surely, He is Almighty, Wise.

8:64 O Prophet! Allah is Sufficient for you and for the believers who follow you.

8:65 O Prophet! Inspire the believers to conquer all fear of death when fighting in the Cause of Allah. So that if there be twenty of you who are patient in adversity, they might overcome two hundred; and if there be one hundred of you, they might overcome one thousand of those who are bent upon denying the Truth. This is because the rejecters cannot grasp the Eternal rewards that infuse enthusiasm in the believers.

8:66 For the time being, however, Allah has lightened your burden, for He knows that you are weak. And so, if there be one hundred of you who are steadfast in adversity, they should be able to overcome two hundred; and if there be one thousand of you, they should be able to overcome two thousand by Allah’s Leave. For, Allah is with those who are steadfast in adversity.

8:67 It is beyond the dignity of a prophet that he may hold any captives, except temporarily, during warfare. They must be freed at the conclusion of hostilities by way of kindness, for ransom, or by exchange of prisoners of war, and there is no other option to keep them (47:4). You may desire the fleeting gains of this world, but Allah desires for you the good of Eternal Achievement, the life to come. Allah is Mighty, Wise.

8:68 If Allah had not decreed for Himself Mercy, those of you who fell for temptation (of booty), would have faced a great retribution.

8:69 (You have seen that you developed your character and established the Divine Order in the society. Then you had to fight off aggression.) Now enjoy what you have won as Lawful and good. Be mindful of Allah's Laws. Verily, Allah is Absolver of imperfections, Merciful.

8:70 O Prophet! Tell the captives of war who are in your hand, “If Allah sees any good in your hearts He will give you better than what has been taken from you, and He will forgive you. Verily, Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

8:71 If they have treacherous designs against you, well, they have already betrayed Allah before this, and that is why He has given you power over them. Allah is Knower, Wise.

8:72 Those who believed, emigrated, and strove with their possessions and lives in the Cause of Allah, as well as those who hosted them and supported them (in Madinah), are close protecting

friends of one another. For those who believed but stayed back (in Makkah), you don't owe them support until they migrate. However, if they seek your help as sisters and brothers in DEEN (Divine Ideology), then it is your duty to help them except against a folk with whom you have a treaty. Allah is fully Aware of all your actions.

8:73 Those who reject the Divine Message are protectors of one another. If you do not help the immigrants, there will be chaos in the land and great corruption.

8:74 Those who believed and emigrated, and strove in the Cause of Allah, and those who hosted them and supported them, are True believers. For them is protection of forgiveness and honorable provision.

8:75 And those who followed them in belief, and left their homes, and strove along with you, they are of you. Remember that blood relatives have certain special rights and obligations over each other according to Allah's Ordinance. They should be the first ones to help each other. Verily, Allah is Knower of all things.

## Surah 9 – At-Taubah – The Repentance

[Author's note] This is the 9th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 129 verses. Humanity must abstain from associating others with Allah -- the One True God. This injunction applies to matters of worship, obedience and Law-giving. Ascribing partners to Allah does not upset Him. He is too High and Glorious to feel offended. Idolatry in any form only harms us by dragging down the honor granted to humans by the Sublime Creator. And it divides mankind into castes and sects. The idolaters, and others who associate gods besides the One True God, are the believers' brothers and sisters once they embrace the Truth. And eventually humankind will become one community.

It is customary to omit BISMILLAH before this Surah as it is considered to be a continuation of the last Surah, Al-Anfal. However, the matter is absolutely insignificant and proper references are an integral part of THE QUR'AN AS IT EXPLAINS ITSELF. Al-Anfal is the 8th and this is the 9th Chapter of the Qur'an.

(With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.)

9:1 (O You who have attained belief! The treaties that you had signed with the idolaters of the Arabian Peninsula, no longer remain valid, for they have repeatedly violated them 9:4). Freedom from obligation in this matter is proclaimed from Allah and His Messenger towards those Idolaters with whom you made a treaty.

9:2 (O Idolaters who have repeatedly violated the peace treaties), Travel freely in the land four months, and know that you cannot escape Allah, and that Allah will bring disgrace to the rejecters of the Truth. (If you persist in rebellion, you will be overpowered and the Central Authority will subdue you).

9:3 And a proclamation from Allah and His Messenger is herewith made to all mankind on this day of the Greatest Pilgrimage (9th day of the 12th lunar month, Zil-Hajjah). Allah disowns the

idolaters, and so does His Messenger. So, if you repent, it will be better for you. But if you turn away from repentance, then know that you cannot escape Allah. (O Messenger) Give tiding of an awful retribution to those who are bent upon denying the Truth.

9:4 Except those idolaters with whom you have a treaty and they have not subsequently failed you, nor have they helped others against you. You shall fulfill your treaty with them till their term. Verily, Allah loves those who are mindful of His Laws.

9:5 When the four Sacred Months are over and if the idolaters are still aggressing, neither becoming law-abiding citizens of the State, nor emigrating, subdue them wherever you find them, take them captive, and besiege them, and ambush them. But if they repent from aggression, and help in the consolidation of the Divine System and in setting up the Just Economic Order of Zakat, then leave them free. Verily, Allah is Forgiving Merciful.

[The four Sacred Months forbidden for any warfare: From the 12th month, Zil-Hajjah up to Rabi'ul Awwal 2:194, 9:36]

9:6 (O Messenger) If anyone of the idolaters seeks your protection or a safe passage, grant him protection from the State. Convey to him the Word of God, and then send him to a place where he feels safe and secure. This kindness on your part is mandatory because they are people who have not yet seen the beauty of the Divine System.

9:7 How can there be a treaty with Allah and His Messenger for the idolaters (when they have repeatedly violated it)? Exempted are those with whom you make a treaty at the Sacred Masjid. If they honor and uphold such a treaty, so shall you. Allah loves those who walk aright.

9:8 How can there be a treaty seeing that if they get the upper hand of you, they would respect no ties and no pacts with you? They pleased you with their speech but their hearts opposed you. Most of them are those who slip away from their word.

9:9 They trade away Allah’s Revelations for petty gains and hinder people from His Path. Their deeds spread inequity and confusion in the society. (This trade mentioned in the Qur’an, generally indicates disregarding Divine Moral Values in favor of instant gratification achieved by following the selfish desire).

9:10 They respect no tie and no pact regarding a believer. They are the ones given to excesses.

9:11 If they mend their ways, and as law-abiding citizens, help consolidate the Divine System, and the Just Economic Order of Zakat, then they are your brothers in the System of life. We explain Our Revelations for those who wish to learn. (The usual translation of this verse conveys the meaning that if they start praying five times a day and give 2.5% poor-due per year, then they are your brothers in religion. This interpretation goes directly against the all-encompassing Ordinance of Allah that there is no compulsion or coercion in DEEN Islam 2:256).

9:12 If they keep breaking their pledges after their treaty, and assail your System, then fight the chiefs of the disbelievers. They have no respect for their binding oaths. This action will help restrain them from aggression.

9:13 Will you not fight a folk who keep breaking their solemn pledges and did everything to drive out the Messenger, and did attack you first? What! Do you fear them? Nay, it is Allah alone Whom you should more justly fear, if you are truly believers.

9:14 Fight them! Allah will punish them at your hands, and He will humiliate them, and give you victory over them, and He will soothe the bosoms of those who believe. (Soothe from the persecution they have undergone for more than a decade).

9:15 He will remove the anger and frustration the believers have suffered at their hands. The invitation is still open to the opponents. Allah, according to His Law, turns to those who turn to Him. He is All Knowing, All Wise.

9:16 Do you think that you will be left alone without Allah distinguishing those among you who strive in His cause, and take none for ally except Allah, His Messenger, and the believers? Allah is Informed of all your actions.

9:17 Those who associate others with Allah whether idols, religious leaders or temporal leaders, shall not administer Masjids, the Centers of the Divine System. Nor shall those who choose for themselves sects in religion (9:107, 30:31, 72:18). They are bearing witness against themselves in their disbelief (of the Qur'an). All their works are vain and they will abide eternally in the Fire.

9:18 Only those people are fit to administer the Masjids, the Centers of the Divine Order, who have unwavering belief in Allah and the Last Day. And, they strive to establish the Divine System, and to set up the Just Economic System of Zakat and fear none but Allah. They are the only ones who are rightly guided.

9:19 Do you think that providing water to Pilgrims and caring for the Sacred Masjid (in Makkah) is equal to the work of him who has Conviction in Allah and the Last Day and then strives in the Cause of Allah? They are not equal in the Sight of Allah. Allah does not intervene to guide those who displace action with ritual.

9:20 Those who attained belief, and left their homes, and strove in the Cause of Allah with their wealth and their lives, have a much greater rank with Allah. They are the ones who are truly triumphant.

9:21 Their Lord gives them good news of His Grace, His Approval, and the Gardens with lasting delight and bliss.

9:22 They will live there forever. Verily, with Allah is immense Reward.

9:23 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Even if your parents and siblings take pleasure in disbelief rather than faith, take not them as allies. Whoever does that, does wrong to himself. (The Divine Ideology shall take precedence over all other bonds).

9:24 Say, "If your parents, your children, and your siblings, and your spouses, and your tribe, and the wealth you have acquired, and the business in which you fear a decline, and the houses you love, are dearer to you than Allah and His Messenger and striving in His Cause, then wait till Allah brings His Command to pass." (Systems based on other than the Supreme Divine Ideology are destined to collapse). Allah does not intervene to guide those who drift away from Divine Laws.

9:25 Allah has given you victory on many fields. But in the Battle of Hunain, you took pride in your numbers but it did not avail you. And the vast earth was made narrow for you, then, you began turning away in flight.

9:26 Then Allah sent His peace of reassurance down upon His Messenger and upon the believers (48:4). And sent down armies you could not see, and punished the rejecters. (The Messenger led them from chaos back to discipline, and boosted their morale. That was the army unseen 3:125, 8:10, 9:40, 41:30). Such is the reward of the rejecters of the Truth.

9:27 Allah will turn in Mercy to the worthy according to His Laws. And Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

9:28 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! The idolaters have made their hearts unclean (and the Sacred Masjid of Makkah is the House of Pure Monotheism. Only those who believe in the Divine System can administer this Sacred House 9:18). So let not the Idolaters come close to it after this year. If you fear scarcity of trade, Allah will enrich you with His Bounty. This is the Promise of Allah who is Knower, Wise.

9:29 Fight against those who reject belief in Allah and the Last Day, and hold not Sacred what Allah and His Messenger have declared Sacred, nor acknowledge the Divine System, among those who received the Scripture, until they pay JIZYA, the tax, with willing submission, and feel themselves subjects of the State as law-abiding citizens. (As citizens of the State they must pay taxes, as the Muslims contribute toward the Just Economic Order of Zakat. In return, the State will guarantee them internal and external security, and equal rights of citizenship. JIZYA will always be less than Zakat, and will be payable only by the able-bodied Non-Muslim citizens of the State. In addition, these able-bodied citizens would be exempt from compulsory military service).

9:30 The Jews say, “Uzayr is God’s son,” while the Christians say, “The Messiah is God’s son.” They only utter baseless themes with their mouths, following in spirit assertions made in earlier times by people (like the Greeks and Zoroastrians) who denied the Truth! Allah condemns them. They are surely deluded. (Some Jews in the Arabian Peninsula used to believe that Osiris, the Egyptian idol, was God’s son while others thought of Ezra, who restored the Torah after it had been lost in the Babylonian Exile, as God’s son).

9:31 They take their rabbis, priests and monks to be their Lords* besides Allah. And they take as their Lord, the Messiah son of Mary. Yet they were commanded to worship but One God. There is no god but He. Praise and Glory to Him, He is far too Glorious for what they ascribe to Him. (*Talmud shows the Jewish superstition of ascribing divinity to Ezra, rabbis, saints, doctors of law and learned men. And the doctrine of Papal infallibility, divinity of saints and praying to them are common in the Roman Catholic Church).

9:32 They seek to extinguish Allah’s Light (the Qur’an) by their utterances (61:8). But Allah will not allow this to pass, for He has Willed to spread His Light in all its fullness even though the rejecters may detest it.

9:33 He it is Who has sent His Messenger with Guidance and the True Religion (DEEN = The System of Life), that He may cause it to prevail over all religions and systems of life, even though the idolaters may detest it. (9:31-33, 14:48, 18:48, 48:28, 61:9).

9:34 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! A great many religious leaders, rabbis, priests, monks, mullahs, yogis, and mystics devour the wealth of mankind in falsehood, and debar

them from the Path of Allah. All those who hoard up gold and silver and spend it not in the Cause of Allah, to them give tidings (O Prophet) of a painful doom.

9:35 On the Day when it will all be heated in the fire of Hell and their foreheads, flanks and backs will be branded with it. “Here is what you hoarded for yourselves, now taste what you had hoarded.”

9:36 Allah has ordained twelve months in one year. This has been Allah’s Ordinance since the day He created the heavens and the earth. Four of these Months are Sacred, forbidden for all warfare. (Mankind, through international treaties, must agree to shun all kind of warfare during these four months. This will give them a cooling off period that sense may prevail over emotions). This is the Firm Religion, the right way. So, do not wrong yourselves by fighting during the Sacred Months. However, you may fight the idolaters in any or all these months if they fight against you in any or all of them (2:194). And know that Allah is with those who restrain themselves. (Four Sacred Months: 2:194, 9:1-5).

[100 Solar years = 103 Lunar years. The earth completing its orbit around the sun in one Solar year]

9:37 Altering the Sacred Months is only an addition to disbelief. It increases the straying of the disbelievers. They keep the total count of the Sacred Months as four, but keep shifting them within the same year or from year to year. Thus they allow what Allah has forbidden. Their evil actions seem pleasing to them. Allah does not intervene to guide those who have decided to live in darkness.

9:38 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! What is amiss with you that, when called upon, “Go forth in the Cause of Allah,” you cling heavily to the ground? Do you choose pleasure in the life of this world rather than in the life to come? The enjoyment of this life is but a paltry thing compared to the Hereafter.

9:39 If you did not go forth in Allah’s Cause, His Law will afflict you with a painful doom. He will replace you with another nation. You cannot harm Him in the least. All things transpire according to the Laws appointed by Allah. (Only the competent nations live honorably in the earth 21:105, 24:55).

9:40 If you do not help the Messenger, Allah will help him, as always. When the disbelievers drove him out of his home, they were just two men. They had to seek refuge in a cave. The Messenger said to his companion, “Grieve not. Surely, Allah is with us.” Then Allah sent His reassuring peace upon him, and supported him with invisible forces of faith and courage (9:26). He made the word of the disbelievers utterly low. Allah’s Word remains Supreme, for Allah is Mighty, Wise.

9:41 Go forth lightly armed, or heavily armed and strive with your wealth and person in the Cause of Allah. This is best for you if you but knew.

9:42 There are people among you that if it were a quick material gain and a short easy journey, they would follow you. But the strife and the distance seem heavy and long to them. They will swear by Allah, “If we could, we would have gone along with you.” They destroy their “Self”. Allah knows that they are liars.

9:43 Allah pardons you (O Messenger)! Why did you give them permission to stay behind, before you could distinguish the truthful from the liars? (The granting of permission gave the hypocrites an excuse).

9:44 Those who have conviction in Allah and the Last Day, do not ask you for exemption from striving with their wealth and persons. And Allah is Aware of those who walk aright.

9:45 Only those ask your leave (O Prophet) who do not truly believe in Allah and the Last Day. Their hearts feel doubt, and in their doubt they waver.

9:46 If they wanted to go forth, they would have made necessary preparation. Allah disliked their participation for their reluctance, and held them back. (The Prophet's permission had) said to them, "Stay behind with those who are sitting back."

9:47 Even if they had gone forth they would have only caused trouble and run to and fro seeking sedition among you. In your ranks are some apt to listen to them and in your ranks are spies of the enemy. Allah knows the wrongdoers.

9:48 They have sought to create dissension among you before, and raised difficulties for you (O Prophet). They did that till the Truth came and the Decree of Allah prevailed, though they detested it.

9:49 Of them is he who says, "Grant me leave, and draw me not into trial." Have they not fallen into trial already? In fact, Hell is all around the disbelievers.

9:50 If some good comes to you (O Prophet) it afflicts them. And if calamity befalls you, they say, "We took our precautions beforehand." And they turn away rejoicing.

9:51 Say, "No calamity befalls us humans except within the bounds of Allah's Laws. Only He is our Lord Supreme (Maulana)." In Allah let the believers put their trust! [Calling religious men as 'Maulana' is a common but erroneous practice.]

9:52 Say, "Can you expect for us other than one of the two things" (victory or martyrdom in the Cause of Allah?) On the other hand, we expect for you retribution from Allah's Law of Requital, and it may be at our hands when you fight against us. Wait then hopefully, and we shall hopefully wait with you."

9:53 (Some hypocrites want to make financial contributions.) Tell them, "Your contribution is not accepted whether you pay willingly or unwillingly. You are a people who drift away from the System at the first opportune time."

9:54 What prevents their contributions from being accepted is this: They do not truly believe in Allah and His Messenger. They only claim to believe (2:8). They join you in congregations of prayer only half-heartedly and just to be seen of men (4:142, 107:5). And they contribute only with great reluctance in their hearts. (Islam involves only willing submission to Allah (2:256).

9:55 Let not their riches nor their children and party astonish you (O Prophet). It holds them back from the way of struggle. According to Allah's Law there is no Paradise for those who fail to strive and build it with their own hands (3:135, 16:32, 46:14-16). They live the life of hell in this world and they depart this world in sorrow for their rejection (9:85).

9:56 And they swear by Allah that they are of you. In fact, they are not of you, but they are people ridden with fear.

9:57 If they could find a refuge or a cave or a hiding place, they would rush to it like runaway horses.

9:58 Some of them try to find fault with you (O Prophet) in the distribution of charity. If they are given plenty, they are pleased and if they receive little share, they get enraged.

9:59 It would have been enormously good for them if they were content with what Allah and His Messenger had given them (59:7). And if they said, "Allah suffices us. (What we have received in equity is good for us). Allah will give us of His Bounty, and the Messenger will distribute in kindness and equity. We turn to Allah with all our hopes." (The Central Authority will be just to all).

9:60 Remember that the funds that the Central Authority receives as Alms and Charity belong to the following categories:

- The poor. Those who are not able to earn enough living to meet their basic needs, for any reason.
- Those whose running businesses have stalled or the ones who have lost their jobs, who have become needy with their active lives coming to a standstill.
- Officers who have been appointed by the government to collect alms and charity.
- Those who are hindered from joining the Divine System for financial reasons.
- To free men and women from bondage of any kind: physical slavery, unjust captivity, and oppression from any quarters.
- Those pressed under the load of ransom or heavy debt from an enemy.
- Defense of the Ideological State, in the Cause of Allah.
- The wayfarer who becomes needy, or travels to the believers in destitute condition, and the homeless son of the street.

This is a Duty from Allah. He is the Knower, the Wise and His Commands are based on Knowledge and Wisdom.

(It is important to bear in mind an almost universal misconception among Muslim scholars and the masses about the above mentioned eight categories. They understand them as pertaining to Zakat. But Zakat indicates a Just Economic Order where everyone in the society flourishes. The cornerstone of Zakat is spending whatever is more than we need, in the Cause of Allah (2:219). In more concrete terms that means turning our extra income voluntarily to the Central Authority who, in turn, will transform the State where everyone works according to his capacity and is paid according to his needs.

The Central Authority can set up a mandatory percentage of income as taxes on its citizens which would vary according to the needs of the time, be it 2.5%, 5% or more or less.

The above verse is talking about SADAQAT (alms and charity) and not ZAKAT. Sadaqat are meant to be an interim arrangement applicable any time, until the Divine System is established and the Just Economic Order is set up in the society).

9:61 And among those (enemies of the Truth) are some who hurt the Prophet and say, " He is only a hearer." Say, "A listener, that is good for you. He believes in Allah, has faith in the believers, and

is a Mercy to those of you who believe." Those who vex and hurt the Messenger of Allah, for them is an awful punishment. (The Messenger is not an emperor or a king who keep guards around them. He is accessible to all at all time and it is good for you that he pays attention to everyone).

9:62 (O You who believe) People swear by Allah to you in order to please you (and improve personal relations). But it is more fitting that they should please Allah and His Messenger, if they really believe (and embrace the Divine Ideology).

9:63 Don't they know that whoever opposes Allah and His Messenger, for him verily is Hellfire, to abide therein? That is the supreme disgrace.

9:64 The hypocrites fear that a Surah might be revealed concerning them, exposing what is in their heart. Say, "Go on mocking! Allah will bring to light exactly what you are dreading."

9:65 And if you ask them (O Messenger), they will say, "We only talk and jest." Say, "Do you realize that you are mocking Allah, His Revelations and His Messenger?"

9:66 "Make no excuse. You have disbelieved after your confession of belief." If We forgive a group of you, there is another group whom We shall punish since they have violated human rights by stealing the fruit of others' labor." (Unless they restore their rights 4:17, 9:102, 25:70, 27:11).

9:67 The hypocrites, both men and women, are all of a kind. They enjoin the doing of what is wrong and forbid the doing of what is right, and withhold their hands from doing good. They are oblivious of Allah, and so He is oblivious of them. (Whoever forgets Allah, forgets himself and his honored stature of being a human 59:19). Verily, the hypocrites drift away from humanity.

9:68 Allah promises the hypocrites, both men and women, and the rejecters of the Truth, the fire of Hell for their abode. It suffices them. They deprive themselves of the Grace of Allah, and theirs is the lasting torment.

9:69 There have been people like you before who were mightier than you in strength, more affluent than you in wealth and children and party. They enjoyed their share of this worldly life. And you have been enjoying your share, just as they did, and you indulge in idle talk as they did. Such are the people whose works have perished in the world and in the life to come. And it is they, yes, they who are the losers.

9:70 Has not the history reached them of those before them? Of the People of Noah, Aad, Thamud, Abraham's folk, the dwellers of Midyan, and the disasters that befell them. Their Messengers had come to them with clear evidence of the Truth. Allah never did injustice to them. But they used to wrong their own people and thus wronged their own "Self".

9:71 And the believers, both men and women, are colleagues one of another. They enjoin the doing of Right and forbid the doing of Wrong (The distinction between right and wrong will never be arbitrary. The Qur'an is the eternal Criterion of what is right and what is wrong 2:185). Together, they help establish the Divine System, and set up the Just Economic Order of Zakat (9:60). This is how they obey Allah and His Messenger. These are the men and women on whom Allah will shower His Mercy. Allah is Mighty, Wise.

9:72 Allah promises to the believers, both men and women, Gardens underneath which rivers flow, wherein they will live forever, and magnificent dwellings in the Gardens of Eden. And Allah's Approval is the greatest of all Blessings. That is the Supreme Triumph.

9:73 O Prophet! (Establishment of the Divine System will build a paradise on earth. But you will meet staunch opposition). Strive hard against the rejecters of the Truth and the hypocrites! And be tough with them without the least inclination towards compromise in matters of Ideology. Their ultimate abode is Hell, a miserable destination indeed.

9:74 (The hypocrites) swear by Allah that they have said nothing wrong. Yet they most certainly have uttered a word of disbelief (9:61-62). And have denied the Truth after professing their surrender to Allah. They were aiming at something beyond their reach (attaining inner peace without sincerity to the Divine Guidance). And they could find no fault in the Divine System except that Allah has enriched them and caused His Messenger to enrich them out of His Bounty. Hence, it will be good for them if they repent and correct themselves. But if they still turn away, Allah will cause them to suffer grievous retribution in this world and in the life to come. And they will have no protector or helper in the earth.

9:75 And among them are those who promise Allah, "If He gives us of His Bounty we will certainly spend in charity and will certainly become of the righteous, the ones who help others."

9:76 Yet, when He gave them His Bounty they hoarded it and turned away from their promise.

9:77 Allah's Law instilled hypocrisy in their hearts till the Day they meet Him (until their demise). This is because they broke their word to Allah that they promised Him, and because they lied again and again.

9:78 Do they not know that Allah knows their thoughts and secret consultations and that Allah is the Great Knower of Things Hidden?

9:79 It is these hypocrites who find fault with such of the believers who give generously, and they find fault with such believers who have nothing to give but the fruit of their toil and labor. They ridicule them all. Allah's Law of Requital will cause their ridicule to rebound on themselves, and grievous suffering awaits them.

9:80 (O Prophet! You very compassionately ask forgiveness for them.) It does not matter if you ask forgiveness for them, or not, Allah will not forgive them even if you ask seventy times for their forgiveness. They have rejected Allah and His Messenger. Allah does not intervene to guide people who intentionally drift away from the Right Path.

9:81 Those (hypocrites) who were left behind rejoiced at sitting still behind the Messenger of Allah, and disliked to strive with their wealth and persons in Allah's Cause. They said, "Let us not go forth in heat." Say, "The fire of Hell is more intense," if they but understood. (And the aggressors could soon bring the heat of the conflict to their homes).

9:82 Then let them laugh a little, they will weep much, as the reward of what they have earned.

9:83 If Allah returns you to a situation where they ask your permission to go forth, say, "You shall never again go out with me for any foe. For you were well pleased with sitting still the first time.

Stay at home then with those who are obliged to remain behind (women, children, elderly men, the sick and the disabled).

9:84 Nor shall you (O Prophet) ever follow the funeral of any of them that dies, nor stand at his grave. They rejected Allah and His Messenger and drifted away from the Divine Commands till death.

9:85 Let not their wealth nor their children or party astonish you! Allah's Law will punish them with these things and their "Self" will depart while they are disbelievers (9:55). (Hoarding of wealth and taking pride in children, party and possession causes the humans to ignore the Divine Laws in their daily lives, thus these things become a tribulation for them 2:195, 8:28, 18:32, 63:9, 68:14, 57:20).

9:86 When a Surah is revealed saying, "Attain belief in Allah, and strive along with His Messenger," the able-bodied men of wealth ask your leave and say, "Allow us to stay behind with those who remain at home."

9:87 They are well pleased to be with the disabled, the elderly, the women and children, and the ill. This attitude puts a seal on their hearts. They seldom understand (that fear can only be overcome with action 2:277, 6:48, 6:81).

9:88 And the Messenger, and those who believe with him, strive with their wealth and person. For them are all the good things and high ranks, and they are the ones who are truly prosperous.

9:89 Allah has made ready for them Gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide. That is the Signal Victory.

9:90 And of the wandering Arabs also, there were some who made excuses and came to claim exemption. And those who were false to Allah and His Messenger, merely sat behind. Grievous suffering is bound to befall the unbelievers among them.

9:91 Not to be blamed are the physically weak, the elderly, the sick, and the ones who have no means to offer, so long as they are sincere to Allah and His Messenger (48:17). They should keep doing what they can to support the Cause. There is no way of blame against the doers of such good. Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

9:92 Nor is there any blame on those who came to you (O Messenger), requesting that you provide them with mounts (horses and camels). You told them, "I cannot find a ride to mount you on." They returned with eyes flowing with tears out of sorrow that they had no means to spend for equipment.

9:93 The way of blame is only against those who ask for your leave when they are rich and able-bodied. They are well pleased to be with those who are obliged to stay behind. They have caused Allah's Law of Requital to seal their hearts without knowing it.

9:94 They will make excuse to you when you believers return. Say, "Make no excuse, for we shall not believe you. Allah has informed us about you. Allah and His Messenger, the Central Authority, will keep you under probation. And then you will be brought back to Him, the Knower of the Invisible and the Visible, and He will make you truly understand what you were doing in life."

9:95 They will swear by Allah, when you return to them, so that you may leave them alone. So leave them alone (9:125). They have blotted their humanity and earned the abode of Hell with their actions.

9:96 They swear that you believers may be pleased with them. Even if you accept them, Allah does not accept those who drift away from His Commands (9:23-24).

9:97 The desert Arabs are more hard in rejection and hypocrisy, and more likely to ignore the Limits that Allah has revealed to His Messenger. Allah is Knower, Wise.

9:98 Among these Bedouin Arabs is he who looks upon his spending as a penalty, and awaits a disaster to hit you. (They hope for the Divine Order to collapse). It is they who invite disaster upon themselves. Allah is Hearer, Knower.

9:99 And among the Bedouins are those who believe in Allah and the Last Day and consider their spending as a means towards Allah and a means of supporting the Messenger. This will raise their ranks with Allah. Allah will embrace them with His Mercy. Verily, Allah is Forgiving, Gracious.

9:100 And the first to lead the way are the emigrants (from Makkah), their hosts who sheltered them (in Madinah), and those who followed them in goodness, Allah is well pleased with them and they are well pleased with Him. He has made ready for them Gardens underneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever. This is the Supreme Triumph.

9:101 Some of the Bedouins who dwell around your town are hypocrites, and some of the people of Al-Madinah also persist in hypocrisy. You know them not, We know them. We will punish them twice (they will be humiliated in the battle and they will see their families and children embracing Belief). Then they will be relegated to a painful doom.

9:102 There are others who acknowledge their faults. Since they have a mixed record of good and bad deeds, they may hope that Allah will relent towards them, for Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

9:103 Accept their contribution for the community. Purify their thoughts with proper education and training so that their "Self" may grow. Help them! Your support is a great source of peace in their hearts. Allah is Hearer, Knower. (Let the believers adopt the Divine qualities in their human capacity).

9:104 Do they not know that Allah is He Who accepts the repentance of His servants, and accepts their charity? Verily, Allah is the Acceptor of repentance, Merciful.

9:105 Say, "Act! (Prove your word with action). Allah will behold your actions, and so will His Messenger, and the believers. Ultimately you will be returned to the Knower of the Invisible and the Visible. He will show you a replay of all you used to do."

9:106 There are some who await Allah's Decree whether He will punish them or relent to them. Allah is All Knowing, All Wise. (Their matter is under investigation by the State. Allah’s Laws are based on Knowledge and Wisdom 9:118).

9:107 (The hypocrites keep making schemes.) They built a Masjid out of mischief and to promote disbelief, and sectarianism among the believers, and as an outpost for those who warred against

Allah and His Messenger before. They will surely swear, “We had but good intentions,” but Allah bears witness that they are liars.

9:108 You shall not stand in such a Masjid! (6:160). There is a Masjid whose foundation was laid from the first day on the Secure Way, it is more worthy that you stand therein. In it are men who love to be purified, and Allah loves those who keep clean of division and sectarianism.

9:109 Is he who founded his building on the Secure Way of Allah and His goodly Acceptance better, or he who founded his building on the crumbling cliff of "Shirk" that topples down with him into the fire of Hell? Allah does not intervene to guide a folk who displace right with wrong.

9:110 The building which they have built will never cease to be a misgiving in their hearts unless their hearts be torn to pieces. (A building that divides believers will remain a source of unrest in the hearts of the sectarians till their hearts stop beating). Allah is Knower, Wise.

9:111 Allah has bought from the believers their persons and their goods, for (in return) theirs is the Garden. They shall fight in the Cause of Allah, and shall slay and be slain. It is a Promise that is binding on Him in the Torah and the Gospel, and the Qur’an. Who can fulfill a promise better than Allah? Rejoice then in the bargain you have made, for that is the Supreme Triumph. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 6:32. Matthew 10:5, 10:39, 19:29, 21:19).

9:112 Triumphant are those who:
- Return to the Right Path and take corrective action as soon as they feel that they have erred.
- Obey the Commands of Allah.
- Praise Allah in word and action by serving His creation.
- Pick up lessons from travel and from history.
- Are always humble before the Divine System.
- Adore Allah alone.
- Promote the Qur’anic Values, and resist the non-Qur’anic customs.
- Guard against trespassing the Limits ordained by Allah.

These are the men and women who deserve a pleasant life in both worlds (33:35, 66:5). Give them the glad tiding (O Messenger).

9:113 It is of no avail for the Prophet and the believers to ask forgiveness when the idolaters face the Law, even if they are their relatives, once it has been made clear that they are destined for Hell.

9:114 Abraham asked forgiveness for his father because of a promise that he had made. The promise was based on the hope that his father would mend his ways. When Abraham was sure that his father was a persistent opponent of Allah's Commands, he desisted from asking forgiveness for him (14:41, 19:47). Abraham was kind-hearted, clement.

9:115 Allah never sends a folk astray after He has guided them, unless they violate the Laws that were made plain. Surely, Allah is the Knower of all things.

9:116 To Allah belongs the Dominion of the heavens and the earth. He has full control over the Laws of life and death, for individuals and nations. You have no protector and helper outside Allah’s Laws.

9:117 Allah is Kind to the Prophet, the emigrants and those who hosted them. The support came in difficult times. That is when the hearts of some of them slightly wavered. Allah turned to them in Mercy. He is Compassionate and Kind to them.

9:118 Allah showed compassion to the three men who had stayed behind. They felt hopeless and the vast earth seemed shrunk to them, and their lives became narrow for them. They realized that there is no refuge but within the Divine Laws. Then He turned to them in Mercy that they too might turn in hopeful repentance (9:106). Allah is Acceptor of repentance, Merciful.

9:119 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be mindful of Allah's Laws and be with the truthful. (That is way to Paradise 89:29).

9:120 People of Madinah, and the Bedouins around, should not stay behind the Messenger. Nor shall they prefer their lives to his life. For, any thirst, effort or hunger that afflicts them in the Cause of Allah, or a single step that they take that angers the rejecters, and whatever gain they gain from the enemy, becomes a credit, a good deed recorded for them. Allah never loses the wages of the doers of good.

9:121 And whatever they spend, small or large, and whenever they cross a valley, it is recorded in their credit, so that Allah repays them the best return for their actions.

9:122 The believers shall not all go to an expedition. Of every group of believers, let some of them come forth to gain sound knowledge of DEEN (the Qur'anic System of life). Then they can pass the knowledge on to their people when they return, so that they may remain aware.

9:123 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Fight those of the disbelievers who close up on you, and let them find strength among your ranks. And know that Allah is with those who are mindful of His Laws.

9:124 Whenever a Surah is revealed some of them (hypocrites) say, "Which one of you has increased in faith?" In fact, it has increased the believers in faith and they rejoice.

9:125 But those who have caused their hearts to ail by harboring doubts, it only adds another element of disbelief to disbelief, and they die refusing to accept the Truth.

9:126 Don't they see that they are tested once or twice each year (at your hands 9:14)? Still they do not repent, nor pay heed.

9:127 When a Surah is revealed, the hypocrites look at each other mockingly as if saying, "Does anyone see you? Let us leave." And then they turn away. Allah's Law turns their hearts away because they are a people who do not use their faculties of understanding.

9:128 (All humanity must realize that) there has come to you a Messenger one of your own who feels your burden. He is full of concern for your betterment, and for those who attain belief, he is compassionate, merciful.

9:129 (O Messenger) if they turn away, say, "Allah suffices me. There is no god, but He. In Him I put my trust. He is the Lord of the Tremendous Throne."

**Chapter 10 – Yunus – Jonah**

[Author's note] This is the 10th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 109 verses. Prophet Jonah was sent to Nineveh, the capital of Ancient Assyria around 700 BC. Nineveh was located by the East Bank of the Tigris River, and had a population of just over 100,000. Granting a period of Respite to nations, in which they can mend their ways, is one of the eternal Divine Laws.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

10:1 A.L.R. Alif. Laam. RA. Allah Aleem the Knower, Raheem the Merciful, announces that these are the Verses of a Book that is full of Wisdom.

10:2 Is it too much of a wonder for people that We reveal Our Message to a man among them? "You shall warn mankind, and give good news to those who attain belief that they have a sure footing with their Lord." Those who are bent upon denying the Truth, say, "This man is an obvious wizard." (He is gifted with spellbinding eloquence).

10:3 But, your Lord (Who sent this Book) is Allah Who created the heavens and the earth in six stages, and is established on the Throne of His Almightiness in Supreme Control. He, the Director of all directions, Issuer of all decrees, runs the Universe according to His Laws. No intercessor can stand in His Court but as a witness of Law (2:255, 16:111)). Such is Allah, your Sustainer. You shall serve Him. Won't you use your intellect and reasoning?

10:4 To Him is your ultimate return, all of you. Allah's Promise is the unwavering Truth. He creates the first creation, and He will create it again so that every action may have its Just Recompense. Those who attained belief and worked to augment the society will have their just reward. And those who rejected the Truth, for them will be a burning draught of despair and a painful doom because of their persistent refusal to acknowledge the Truth. (A consequence of their own doings 33:24, 34:3-4, 45:22, 53:31.)

10:5 He it is, who appointed the sun as a splendid glow, and the moon as a cool light. He appointed stages for the moon, in due measure. You make your calculations and calendars accordingly (6:97, 17:12). Allah has created the Universe as the Absolute Reality and for a Purpose. (It is neither a dream, nor a reflection of the world of ideas). Allah details His Verses for those who wish to learn.

10:6 In the difference of day and night, and all that Allah has created in the heavens and the earth, there are signs for those who wish to walk aright.

10:7 Those who expect not to meet Us, and content themselves with the petty delights of the worldly life, do not look beyond it, and neglect Our Messages,

10:8 Their home will be the Fire that they have earned (ignited) with their own actions.

I0:9 Those who attain to faith, and help people, their Lord guides them by their conviction (that no action goes waste). He shows and walks them the way to the Gardens of delight, beneath which rivers flow.

10:10 Their prayer therein will be, “Glory be to You, O Allah!” Their greeting to one another will be, “Peace!” The conclusion of their prayer will be, “Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds!” (And so shall be the peaceful Ideal Society on earth. They will realize that the good of one is the good of another and see how Praiseworthy the Giver of such Blissful Guidance is).

10:11 If Allah hastened requital for people as they hasten for immediate delights, their respite would have already expired. (It is Allah’s Mercy that His Law of Requital does not grasp them instantly. He gives them time to mend their ways). Those who do not entertain the hope of meeting with Us, We leave them wandering in their rebellion.

10:12 When affliction befalls man, he cries unto Us, whether he be lying, or sitting or standing. But when We have relieved him of the affliction, he goes his way as if he had never cried unto Us for what afflicted him. Those who trespass the Divine Laws, lose discernment and even their ill deeds then seem fair to them.

10:13 We annihilated many nations before you for their violation of human rights. Their Messengers had come to them with clear evidence of the Truth, but they refused to believe them. Thus do We reward those who steal the fruit of others’ labor.

10:14 Now, We have made you their successors in the land, to behold how you behave.

10:15 When Our Messages are conveyed to them in all clarity, those who hope not that they are destined to meet with Us, (want to strike a deal with the Messenger). They say, “Bring us a Qur’an other than this or make some changes in it.” Say (O Prophet), "It is not conceivable that I would alter it myself. I only follow what is revealed to me. I cannot disobey my Lord, for I fear the retribution of a Mighty Day."

10:16 Say, "If Allah wanted otherwise, I would have not recited and conveyed this to you, nor would have made you aware of it. Indeed, a whole lifetime have I dwelt among you before this. (You have always called me Al-Amin, the trustworthy). Will you not, then, use your reason?”

10:17 Who does a greater wrong than the one who himself forges a lie, then ascribes it to Allah, or falsifies His Revelations, or denies them? Those who steal the fruit of others’ labor under any pretense, certainly do not prosper.

10:18 They worship and obey besides Allah, deities that can neither harm nor benefit them. They say, “These are our intercessors with Allah.” Say, "Are you informing Allah of what He knows not in the heavens and the earth? Glory to Him! (39:3). He is High, Exalted above all that they associate with Him.”

10:19 All mankind were but one community (and are meant to be so); then they differed (2:213). Had not your Lord decreed the Law of free will for humans, He would have judged their disputes immediately (2:30, 2:256, 11:118, 16:9, 76:2-3).

10:20 And they say, “Why was not a miracle sent down upon him from his Lord?” Then answer (O Prophet), “The Unseen is known to Allah alone. Wait for the results of my Program. Indeed, I shall be waiting with you.” (That will be the best sign for all of us to behold).

10:21 When We cause people to taste of Mercy after they have suffered a hardship, they start scheming to defy Our Commands. Say, “Allah is more Swift in planning. Our couriers write down what you plot.”

10:22 He it is Who enables you to travel in the land and the sea. When you board the ships, the ships sail with the voyagers with a favorable breeze. And they rejoice therein. If a stormy wind comes and the waves surround them, they think they are overwhelmed. Then they implore God, in all sincerity turning to His Universal Laws, saying, "If You only save us this time, we will truly show our gratitude.”

10:23 Yet as soon as He has saved them, they return to land in their behavior of rebellion against the Divine Laws. O Mankind! Remember that your rebellion is only against your own "Self" (91:9-10). Enjoyment of the worldly life with disregard of Eternity, is but a fleeting delight. Then unto Us is your return, and We shall make you understand what you truly accomplished.

10:24 Those who do not invest in the life to come must consider a similitude: The life of the world is a passing delight: We send down water from the height to produce with it all kinds of plants from the earth, provision for humans and animals. Then, just as the earth has taken its ornament and is perfectly adorned, and its people think that they are in control, Our Command arrives by night or by day, leaving it completely barren, as if nothing existed there yesterday. The only way to inherit the fruit of your labor in the Hereafter is to live by Our Laws. We expound Our Revelations and Signs in Nature for those who use their intellect.

10:25 Allah calls to the Lasting Abode of Peace, and leads men and women to the Straight Path. This Guidance can only be achieved according to His Laws (4:88).

10:26 Those who benefit humanity get rewarded manifold. No dust of sadness and no trace of humiliation will overshadow their faces. Such are the rightful dwellers of the Garden; they will abide therein.

10:27 And those who are unjust to others in their daily lives, will fail to balance their own personalities. They will spend their lives in sadness and humiliation, a linear result of their own actions. There will be no one to protect them from Allah’s Law. They will wander as if the darkness of night had covered their faces. They are the ones who have built their Hell and they will inherit it in the Eternity.

10:28 One Day We will gather all of them together. We will say to those who acknowledged false deities, “Stay back, you and your pretended partners of Allah!” We will have the leaders and their followers confront each other. Their leaders will say, “It was not us you worshiped.”

10:29 And such false deities (as Prophets, angels, saints, and the Universal forces) will say, “Allah suffices as a Witness between us and you, that we were not even aware of your worship.” (They worshiped the intrinsic and extrinsic projections of their own desires and fantasies).

10:30 Therein every person will experience exactly what he or she did before. Then they are returned to Allah, their MAULA, the True Lord Supreme, and all their false imagery leaves them in the lurch. (There is no MAULANA but Allah).

10:31 (Now is the time for them to think.) Say (O Messenger), “Who is it that provides for you from the heaven and the earth, or who is it that has full power over your hearing and sight? And who is it

that brings forth the living from the dead, and the dead from the living? And who is it that directs the Order of the Universe?" They will say, "Allah." Say, "Will you not then be mindful of His Laws?"

10:32 Such is Allah, your Rightful Lord. After the Truth what is there but error? How could you then turn away?

10:33 The Word of your Lord is justified that those who drift away from Reason will not accept the Truth.

10:34 Ask them, "Can any of your 'partner gods' originate Creation and carry them through evolution?" Say, "Allah originates Creation and carries them through evolution. How are you then so misled?"

10:35 Say, "Of your 'partners' is there any that can lead you to the Truth?" Say, "Allah leads to the Truth. So, who is more worthy of being followed? The One Who shows you the Way or he who finds no way unless he is guided? What is amiss with you? How do you judge?"

10:36 The majority of the people follow nothing but conjecture. Surely, conjecture can never at all be a substitute for the Truth. Allah is Knower of how they act (and forge).

10:37 Now this Qur'an could not possibly have been devised by anyone except Allah. Nay indeed, it is a confirmation of the Divine Origin of the earlier Revelations, and a clear exposition of the Eternal Law. Without any trace of doubt, this Book is from the Lord of the Worlds. (While it confirms the surviving Truth in the previous Revelations, it is a Watcher over them and ignores and, where necessary, corrects the human touch in them 5:48).

10:38 Or, do they say, "He has invented it?" Tell them, "Bring one Surah like this and call for help everyone you can besides Allah, if you are truthful." (2:23, 11:13). (One chapter like this in beauty, eloquence and wisdom. And "besides Allah" would mean, without copying phrases and sentences from the Qur'an).

10:39 Nay, they deny it without grasping the profound knowledge therein. And they have yet to see the benevolent transformation it can bring about in the making of humanity. Generations before them rejected Divine Revelation. Then see what was the consequence for those who thus wronged themselves!

10:40 And of them is he who believes in this (Qur'an), and of them is he who does not believe in it. And your Lord is best Aware of those who are bent upon denial and want corruption and disorder to go on.

10:41 If they keep denying you (O Prophet), say, "I have my work, and you have your work. You are innocent of what I do and I am innocent of what you do." (109:1-6).

10:42 Among them are those who apparently listen to you. (But their thoughts are wandering). Can you make those deaf to hear who do not use reason? (47:16).

10:43 And among them you will find those who look at you without seeing. (Their mind is roaming elsewhere). Can you show the way to those who are blind of the heart? (7:198).

10:44 Allah is never unjust to human beings; but people wrong themselves. (Failing to use the God-given faculties is the first wrong one can commit. It brings the humans down to subhuman levels 7:179).

10:45 On the Day when He will gather them, they will think as if they lived in this world for one hour of the day. Others will think it was a day or a few days (20:103-104). They will recognize one another as they did yesterday. Lost are those who used to deny that they were destined to meet Allah, face His Law of Requital, and thus remained unguided.

10:46 Whether We let you (O Messenger), behold something of what We promise them, or cause you to die, unto Us is their return (and the Law of Requital is ever vigilant). Allah is the Watcher over what they do.

10:47 For every nation there has been a Messenger. And he always explained to them the distinction between justice and injustice. The Law of Requital has never unjustly dealt with any nation.

10:48 They say, "When will the promise be fulfilled, if you believers are truthful?"

10:49 Say (O Messenger), "I have no power even to avert any harm to myself, or benefit myself contrary to the Laws of Allah. Every nation determines its own rise and fall. When the time comes, they can neither delay, nor hasten the Requital."

10:50 Say, "Have you thought, when His retribution comes to you suddenly by night, or in the bustling day, what portion of it would the guilty wish to hasten?"

10:51 "Would you then profess belief in it at last, when it comes to pass! Ah! Now? And you wanted to hasten it on." (But the period of Respite has been over).

10:52 It will be said to the oppressors and violators of human rights, "Taste the eternal torment, the exact reward of what you earned."

10:53 They keep asking you (O Prophet), "Is it really true?" Say, "Yes indeed, by my Lord, it is really true. And you cannot defy His Laws."

10:54 Whoever oppresses people, has wronged his own "Self". Even if they possessed everything on earth, they would readily present it as ransom. But they will be ashamed within themselves, when they see the doom. They will be judged fairly and no wrong shall be done to them.

10:55 Oh, verily, To Allah belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth. His Promise is unwaveringly True but most of them never learn.

10:56 He it is Who gives life and death. You and your actions will be returned to Him.

10:57 O Mankind! There has now come to you Enlightenment from your Sustainer, and a healing for everything that troubles your hearts, and Guidance, and Grace to all who embrace it.

10:58 Say, "In this Bounty of Allah and in His Grace – in this, then, let them rejoice. It is better than all the treasures that they may amass."

10:59 Say, “Have you considered how Allah sends down to you all kinds of provisions for your minds and bodies? Then you render some of them unlawful and some lawful?” (You go after man-made dogmas thus tampering with the revealed Word of God and declare unlawful His Bounties of sustenance, food, clothing, ornament of life and things of aesthetic beauty such as art). Say, “Has Allah permitted you to do this? Or do you invent lies and attribute them to Allah?” (7:32).

10:60 Does it ever occur to the people who tamper with religion and invent lies concerning Allah, that they will have to face Him on the Resurrection Day? Allah is Infinitely Bountiful toward mankind, but the majority of them do not show gratitude in word and action.

10:61 In whatever condition you may find yourself (O Prophet), and whatever of the Qur’an you are reciting and preaching, and whatever work or business you believers are occupied with, remember that We are your Witness from the moment you enter upon it. Not an atom's weight in the Low nor in the Height escapes your Lord's knowledge. Nor, a thing smaller or bigger, everything in the Universe is recorded in His Clear Decree.

10:62 Remember that people who strive to establish the Divine System, become the friends of Allah. They will have nothing to fear, nor shall they grieve.

10:63 They accepted His Message, followed His Commands, and walked aright.

10:64 There is good news for them in this world and in the life to come. (This is Allah’s Word). Allah’s Words never change. (And changeless are His Laws 33:62, 35:43, 48:23. And you will never find even a slight turn in His Laws 17:77). Success in the world and in the life to come is the Supreme Triumph.

10:65 Let not their utterances sadden you (O Prophet!) To Allah wholly belong all Authority, Might and Honor. He is the Hearer, the Knower. (No power, glory or honor is attainable contrary to His Laws).

10:66 Behold! Verily, all creatures in the heavens and all creatures in the earth belong to Allah. (All are His subjects). So, what do they follow who call upon “partners” of Allah? They follow nothing but the conjecture of others, and themselves do nothing but guess.

10:67 He it is Who made night for you to rest in, and made the day lighted to make things visible to you. These are Signs for those who are willing to listen and think.

10:68 And yet they assert, “God has taken unto Himself a son!” Glory to Him! Self-sufficient is He. Unto Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. No evidence whatever you have for this assertion! Would you ascribe to God something you really don't know?

10:69 Say, “Verily, They who attribute their lying inventions to Allah, will see the crops of their false imagery burning to ashes.”

10:70 They get their fleeting share in this world, but then unto Us is their return. Our Law of Requital will have them effectively taste a dreadful doom, for they chose to live in the darkness of falsehood.

10:71 (People have been fabricating falsehood since ancient times.) Relate to them the history of Noah. Behold! He said, "O My People! If my presence among you and my announcement of

Allah’s Messages are hard on you, well, I have put my trust in Allah. Decide then upon what you are going to do against me, and call to your aid your “partners”. And once you have chosen your course of action, let no hesitation deflect you from it. Then have a go at me and give me no respite.”

10:72 But if you change your mind and turn away from hostility, do so for your own good. I have asked of you no wage. My wage is with Allah alone, and I am commanded to be of those who surrender to Him.”

10:73 But, they persisted in their denial, and We saved Noah and his companions who boarded the ship, and made them successors in the land. (The deniers thought of the flood warning as a laughing matter. The Tigris and the Euphrates rivers flooded with torrential rains) and We drowned those who had rejected Our Messages. See then what happened to those who had been given sufficient warning.

10:74 Then after him We sent many Messengers to their respective nations and they brought them clear evidence of the Truth. They preemptively refused to accept the Message. And they were not the kind of people who would rethink their decisions. Our Law puts a seal on the hearts of those who trespass the bounds of reason.

10:75 Then, after them, We sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh and his chiefs, with Our Messages. But they were a folk arrogant and they were used to thriving on the fruit of others’ toil.

10:76 When the Truth from Us came to them, they said, "This is clearly nothing but magic.”

10:77 Moses said, “This is what you say about the Truth when it has come to you! Is this magic? Those who deceive people with lies and claims of magic, never succeed.”

10:78 They said, "Have you come to turn us away from our ancestral ways, and so that you two become prominent in the country? However, we will not believe in you two."

10:79 Pharaoh said, "Bring all eloquent debaters to me."

10:80 And when they came, Moses said to them, “Begin with your presentation."

10:81 When they finished with their arguments, Moses said, “Your reasoning is totally flawed. Allah's Laws annihilate the political and social systems that promote corruption, disorder and bloody feuds.

10:82 Allah will always vindicate the Truth by His Laws. Societies will flourish only when they embrace the Permanent Value System. Even though, the guilty that are used to thriving on the toil of others, will hate equity.”

10:83 Only a few of the Egyptians, some youngsters, could proclaim belief in Moses because of the fear of Pharaoh and his chiefs. Pharaoh was indeed a great tyrant on earth. He used to cross all bounds of human behavior.

10:84 Moses said, “O My people! If you have believed in Allah and surrendered to Him, then be steadfast in your resolve and action by putting your trust in Him.

10:85 They responded, "In Allah we trust. O Our Lord! Save us from the oppression of the oppressor.”

10:86 “Save us with Your Mercy from these ruthless disbelieving folk.”

10:87 We commanded Moses and his brother, “Maintain your homes in Egypt, and turn them into places of worship to remember God. Establish the Commandments in your lives and give good news to the believers.”

10:88 (Moses promised to proceed on these lines.) He prayed, “Our Lord! You have given Pharaoh and his chiefs a life of luxury and abundance. Our Lord! With their resources and might they continue with their oppression and lead people astray from Your Path. Our Lord! Destroy their riches and make their faculties incapable of contriving their oppressive designs. They will not see the Truth unless they face an awful suffering.”

10:89 Allah said, "Your prayer is heard. Both of you shall remain determined. And you both shall not follow the path of those who act without knowledge." (20:36, 20:42).

10:90 We brought the Children of Israel across the sea, and Pharaoh with his armies pursued them in rage and bitter enmity. When Pharaoh was drowning, he cried out, "I believe that there is no god but the One in whom the Children of Israel believe, and I am of those who surrender.”

10:91 What? Now! You rebelled ardently all your life. You committed bloody crimes on earth.

10:92 Nay, but this day We will only save you in your body so that you may remain a lesson for generations to come. A great many of mankind remain heedless of Our Signs.

10:93 Thereafter indeed, We assigned to the Children of Israel an honorable dwelling place, and gave them decent provision. But they began to hold divergent views and divided among themselves despite the knowledge (of Revelation). Your Lord will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection regarding wherein they differed.

10:94 (O Prophet), If you ever think whether the Revelation We send to you could be an inspiration from your heart, ask the angels who bring it. They read it before you read it. Verily the Truth has come to you from your Lord. Be not of those who waver.

10:95 (Those who consider Our Revelations as intrinsic inspiration, in fact deny them.) Be not of those who deny Our Revelations and become losers.

10:96 Verily, they who violate your Lord’s Law of Guidance, will not believe (4:88).

10:97 Though every evidence may come to them, till they see the painful doom.

10:98 For, alas, there has never yet been any community that attained belief, and benefited by its belief, except the nation of Jonah. When they embraced belief, We removed from them the suffering of disgrace, and let them enjoy their term. (37:147-148). (They used to live in humiliation at Nineveh. When they accepted the Divine Message, they prospered for about two centuries between 800-612 B.C. Then the Midyans conquered them. After the demise of Jonah, his people had been fast ignoring the Divine Word revealed to Jonah, and leaning towards the resurging

priest class. The invaders set on fire the wonderful town of Nineveh. The spacious 60 mile wide, and beautiful town was reduced to ashes. The king of Assyria got himself burnt alive in the palace, and that was the end of the Assyrian dynasty).

10:99 If your Lord willed, all men and women on earth would have believed. Would you compel people to believe? (2:256, 76:4-6).

10:100 None can attain conviction contrary to Allah’s Laws. And those who do not use their intellect are made to carry loads of confusion on their minds.

10:101 Say, “Behold what is in the heavens and the earth! No miracles and no warnings will help those who are bent upon denying the Truth. (2:6-7, 41:53)

10:102 Can they expect other than the days of calamity that befell those who passed away before them? Say, “Wait then! I shall wait with you.”

10:103 (At the time of Requital) We save Our Messengers and the community of believers as in the old times. It is incumbent upon Us to save the community of true believers.

10:104 Say, "O Mankind! If you have any doubt about the System that I am trying to establish, and if you believe that other parallel systems can be of avail to you, let us go ahead with our programs. I worship not and obey not those whom you worship and obey instead of Allah. But I obey Allah Who causes you do die (and Who controls the Laws of life and death of individuals and nations). I have been commanded to be of the believers.”

10:105 (O Prophet) Set your purpose resolutely for the Upright System of life and do not be of those who associate anyone with Allah in any form.

10:106 Do not ever call on deities besides Allah. They have no control over your harm or benefit. If you expected help outside the Laws of Allah, you will be among the wrongdoers.

10:107 If Allah’s Law afflicts you, there is none who can remove it contrary to His Laws. And when He blesses you, no power can hinder His Grace. He bestows His Grace upon His servants according to His Laws. And He is Forgiving, Merciful.

10:108 Say, "O Mankind! Now has come to you the Truth from your Lord. So whoever chooses to follow the right path, follows it for his own “Self”. And whoever chooses to go astray, goes astray to his own hurt. And I am not a guardian over you."

10:109 (O Messenger), Follow what is revealed to you and be steadfast in adversity until Allah issues His Judgment. And He is the Best of judges.

## Surah 11 – Hud – Hud

[Author's Note] This is the 11th Surah of the Qur’an. It has 123 verses. As we have learnt earlier, Prophet Hud was sent to the powerful nation of Aad. He is considered to be the next in line to Prophet Noah only and that puts his times several millennia B.C. He is also supposed to be the

first ever Messenger to be raised in the Arabian Peninsula. Let us bear in mind that the inhabitants of the Peninsula were not Arabs before Prophet Ishmael a.s. whose period of advent is about 1800 B.C. For a brief history of how the Arabs are the descendants of Ishmael, please see 2:125. All nations have received their Messengers from God. None of the Messengers asked for a return for their services to humanity. They met stiff resistance as well as enjoyed loyal following.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

11:1 A.L.R. Allah, Aleem the Knower, Raheem the Kind. A Divine Writ this is, the Verses wherein are perfected and then expounded. It comes from One Wise, Aware.

11:2 It teaches that you serve none but Allah. (Say O Prophet), "I am unto you from Him a Warner and a bearer of good news.

11:3 Seek your Sustainer's forgiveness, then turn towards Him in repentance. He will then grant you a goodly enjoyment of life in this world until a term appointed. He will bestow His abounding Grace on all who abound in merit. But if you turn away, then I fear for you the chastisement of a Great Day."

11:4 To Allah is your return and He has Power over all things.

11:5 Oh, verily, see how they enshroud their hearts hiding their innermost thoughts, as if to keep Him from knowing them! (Are they trying to live a dual personality? 71:7) Ah! When they cover themselves with garments of vanity, He knows what they conceal and what they reveal. For, He is Knower of the innermost thoughts of the hearts.

11:6 There is not a creature in the earth but its sustenance depends on Allah. He is Aware of its habitation and of the needs of His creation at every stage (6:99). He carries them from one station to another until the final destination. His Laws are preserved in the Clear Book of Decree, the Divine Database (55:29).

11:7 He created the heavens and the earth in six stages and established Himself on the throne of His Almightiness. He has Supreme Control over the origination of life which began in water (21:30). Life is a test for yourselves to see which of you leads a balanced life and is best in conduct. Yet, if you (O Prophet), say, "You will be raised again after death," the rejecters of the Truth will surely answer, "This is clearly nothing but a fabulous delusion!" (45:24).

11:8 And when We delay for them the retribution until after the Period of Respite, they will surely say, "What is keeping back the doom?" Ah! On the day it actually reaches them, nothing will turn it away from them. And their mockery will completely surround them.

11:9 (Those who only believe in the instant gains of this life, are quick to rejoice and quick to despair.) If Our Law causes man to taste Mercy from Us and afterward withdraws it from him, he behaves despairing, thankless.

11:10 And if Our Law causes him to taste Blessing after some hardship has visited him, he says, "Gone is all affliction from me!" Behold! He falls into exultation and pride.

11:11 But those who are steadfast in adversity and prosperity, and work to improve the quality of life for all, behave positively. For them is the protection of forgiveness and a great reward.

 

11:12 Is it then conceivable (O Prophet), that you omit any part of what is being revealed to you (because the rejecters dislike it)? Or because you feel uncomfortable on their saying, "Why has not a treasure been sent down for him, or an angel come with him?" You are but a Warner, and it is Allah Who is the Custodian of all things.

11:13 Or they assert, “He has invented it.” Say to them, "Then bring a portion of Surahs like this, invented, and call on everyone you can besides Allah, if you are truthful!" (Or produce one Surah like this 2:23, 10:38).

11:14 “And if they answer not your prayer, then know that it has been revealed only in the Knowledge of Allah; and that there is no god but He. Will you then surrender yourselves unto Him?”

11:15 Whoever cares for (no more than) the short term gains and glitter of the worldly life, We shall repay for them their deeds herein without the least reduction. (17:18).

11:16 But (since they did not invest in the life to come), for them is nothing but Fire in the Hereafter. All that they have contrived here is vain, and worthless is all that they did. (Following the desires is the inevitable consequence of disregarding the Divine Values; hence the Fire).

11:17 Contrary to such people is the one who has truly seen his Lord’s Signs in the Universe. Now he has the Prophet as a witness, who correlates Allah’s Signs in the Universe with His Messages. And before this, the Scripture of Moses has set a precedent and graceful guidance. (It foretold the advent of the final Messenger; Deuteronomy 18:15-18). Such people will surely attain to belief. As for those who league together in rejection of such compelling Truth, the Fire is their appointed place. Harbor not any doubt; verily this is the Truth from your Sustainer. But the majority of mankind do not believe.

11:18 Who can be a greater wrongdoer than the one who invents a lie about Allah? (The clergy have always done it with previous Scriptures, and they will do it again 2:79, 3:77, 6:113, 6:138-139, 9:34, 22:52). Such will be brought before their Lord, and the witnesses will say, “These are they who lied about their Sustainer.” Oh, verily, Allah’s rejection is the due of all those who displace right with wrong.

11:19 They are the ones who hinder people from the Path of Allah, and seek to make it crooked. Thus they practically disbelieve in the life Hereafter.

11:20 They cannot escape Allah's Law of Requital even if they run to and fro in the earth, unscathed. Never will they find anyone to protect them from Allah. Double suffering will be imposed on them since they could not bear to hear the Truth nor could see it.

11:21 Such are those who have lost their “Self”, and all their false imagery, their invented dogmas and idols will leave them in the lurch.

11:22 These fabricators will be the worst losers in the Hereafter.

11:23 Those who attain belief and work for the betterment of people, and are humble before their Lord, are the rightful dwellers of the Garden; they will abide therein.

11:24 These two kinds of people may be likened to the blind and deaf of reason, and the seeing and hearing. Can these two be deemed alike? Will you not then keep this in mind? (13:16-19, 35:39).

[A brief historical resume of some nations and their Messengers now follows to illustrate this phenomenon. This will show the efforts of the Messengers and the response of their peoples to the Message of enlightenment. In order to make good use of TASREEF and get a complete account, here are some related verses about the nations and their Messengers described in Surah Hud.

NOAH (to Babylon): 7:69, 10:72, 14:9, 21:76, 23:23, 26:109, 29:14, 71:21.

HUD (to Aad): 7:65, 7:123. 11:50, 29:38, 41:13, 46:26, 51:41, 53:50, 54:17, 69:4.

ABRAHAM (to Nimrod): 21:24, 2:258, 3:33, 3:96, 4:35, 4:125, 14:36, 16:120, 19:50, 21:51, 22:26, 29:27, 37:83, 37:99, 53:27, 53:37, 60:1, 87:19.

SALEH (to Thamud): 7:73, 11:89, 26:141, 27:45. LOT: 6:86, 15:61, 21:74, 27:56, 29:26, 37:131.

SHOAIB (to Midyan): 7:85, 9:70, 15:78, 22:44, 26:176, 38:13, 50:14.

MOSES (to Israelites & Pharaoh): 4:164, 6:84, 7:103, 7:144, 10:75, 17:101, 19:51, 20:9-40, 23:47, 26:10, 27-12, 28:22-29, 40:25, 79:15.]

11:25 We sent Noah to his folk and he declared, “Behold, I come to you with a plain warning.”

11:26 “That you may serve none but Allah (and follow not the rampant traditions); I am afraid this trend is slowly taking you towards a day of an awful disaster.”

11:27 But the chiefs of his people, who were the foremost in rejection of the Message, came forward with four objections:

- We see you but a human being like us.
- And we see not that any follow you but the obviously lowest caste among us. (17:70).
- We do not see that you people are in any way superior to us, such as, wealth and property.
- Nay, we deem all of you liars.

11:28 Noah said, “O My people! Bethink! What if I am taking my stand on clear evidence from my Lord? What if He has blessed me out of His Grace of guidance? It is obscure to you because you are not seeing it through the eyes of reason. In any case, can we compel you to accept what you don’t like?”

11:29 "O My people! No benefit do I ask you for this. My reward rests with none but Allah. And I am not going to repulse any of the believers (39:40, 63:8). Verily, they know that they are destined to meet their Lord, whereas in you I see people who are wandering in the darkness of ignorance."

11:30 "And O My people! Who will help me against Allah if I drove them away? Will you then not reflect?"

11:31 “I never say to you that I have the Treasures of Allah. Neither do I claim knowledge of what is beyond human perception, nor do I say that I am an angel. I disagree with you, that my followers are the folk of the lesser status. You claim that Allah will never give them His Bounties, but He knows their true merit. I cannot be unjust to them.”

11:32 They said, “O Noah! You have disputed with us and disputed a great deal. Now bring upon us what you threaten us with, if you are a man of truth.”

11:33 He answered, “Only Allah brings His Requital according to His Law, once it is upon you, then you can by no means escape.”

11:34 Noah said, “My counseling and well-wishing will not help you outside of Allah’s Law of Guidance and straying (4:88). He is your Lord, and unto Him you must return along with your deeds.”

11:35 God said to Noah, “Do they say that you have invented this set of values?” “Tell them, if I made it up, I am responsible for my crime. And I am innocent of your crimes.” (Let them at least reflect if they are doing wrong or not).

11:36 And it was revealed to Noah, “No one of your folk will attain faith except the ones who have believed already. So grieve no longer over their actions.”

11:37 We commanded Noah, “But build an ark under Our Eyes and according to Our Directions, and do not plead with Me on behalf of the oppressors. (23:27). Behold, they are destined to be drowned.” (A flood in the valley of Tigris and Euphrates was forthcoming. (11:44). The rejecters would drown for not following the Prophet).

11:38 As he was building the ship, and every time the chiefs of his nation passed by him, they mocked at him. Thereupon he said, “If you are mocking us, behold, we are mocking (at your ignorance) just as you are mocking us.”

11:39 And soon you will know upon whom a humiliating punishment befalls, and upon whom a lasting torment will come. “

11:40 Thus it was until Our Command came to pass. Water gushed forth in torrents over the face of the land. Torrential rain began and the rivers started over flowing. We commanded Noah to take with him livestock, a couple each, and to take his family and followers with him. The rejecters, of course, were not to embark (Noah's son and wife 11:45, 66:10 did not embark). The community of believers with Noah was small.

11:41 Noah put his trust in Allah and told his people to embark, "Come on board, in the name of Allah will be its course and its resting. My Lord is the Provider of shelter, Merciful."

11:42 The ship sailed with them amidst huge waves as Noah called his son, who was standing aloof, “O My dear son! Come ride with us; do not be with the disbelievers.”

11:43 He said. "I will cling to a hill-top to protect me from the water.” Noah said, “Nothing can protect anyone today from God’s Command except for those who have earned His Grace.” (The only security that day in the valley was for those who had believed in Noah, followed his advice

and thus attained God’s Mercy). A towering wave came between them and his son was among those who drowned.

11:44 And it was said, “O Earth! Swallow your water and, O Sky! Cease!" And the command was fulfilled. The water sank into the earth. And the ark came to rest upon the Mount Al-Judi. And it was said, “Away with these oppressors of the weak.” (The ship came to rest at Judea, in the hills of Ararat, east of the Tigris River).

11:45 Noah called upon his Lord, "My Lord! My son was of my family and Your Promise is the True Promise and You are the Most Just of judges." (So, why was he not saved? Didn’t You promise to save my family?)

11:46 His Lord said, "O Noah! Your son was not of your family. His conduct was not righteous. You were not aware of the Divine Criterion of relationships which are based on Ideology and not on lineage otherwise you wouldn’t have asked such a question. I enlighten you so that you don’t remain ignorant in this regard.”

11:47 Noah said, “My Lord! I guard myself in Your shelter from asking favors which do not befit me, and for my lack of knowledge. Forgive me and shower me with Your Grace, otherwise I will become a loser.”

11:48 He was told, “O Noah! Disembark and descend from the hills in Peace from Us, and there are the blessings of decent sustenance for you and your companions (in spite of the recent flood 11:41). And other nations, all of them will be awarded according to their deeds. Those who care only for the ornament of this life will be provided for in the world, but eventually suffer from Our Law of Requital." (11:15-16).

11:49 (O Prophet) These are the news We reveal to you that neither you, nor your people were aware of. Go ahead with your program with forbearance. The destination of Bliss belongs to those who journey through life upright.

11:50 We sent to Aad their brother Hud. He said, “O My people! Serve Allah alone. You have no god but He. As it is, you are but inventors of falsehood.”

11:51 He said, "O My people! I ask no reward from you. My reward is with Him Who brought me into being. If you use your sense, you will understand.”

11:52 “O My nation! Come to the forgiveness of your Lord by turning to Him and mending your ways. He will shower upon you heavenly blessings abundant, and add strength to your strength. Do not turn away, guilty!”

11:53 They said, "O Hud! You have not shown us any miracle. We will not forsake our idols just because you say so. We are not going to believe you.”

11:54 “We think that one of our gods has possessed you like a demon and you have gone crazy." Hud said, "I call Allah to witness, and you too bear witness that I am absolutely free of your idolatry.”

11:55 “Get together, all of you and your gods besides Him. Make a firm decision against me and give me no respite.”

11:56 “I have put my trust in Allah, my Lord and your Lord. There is not a creature in the Universe beyond His firm Control. Behold, my Lord is on the Straight Path.”

11:57 “You may accept or reject the Message that I have clearly conveyed to you. If you turn away, you will decline and fall. Then, My Lord will bring another nation in your place. You cannot harm Him at all. Verily, My Lord is He Who is the Guardian of all things.”

11:58 And so, when Our Command came to pass, We saved Hud and those who believed with him by a mercy from Us. We saved them from a harsh retribution that inflicted the rejecters.

11:59 Such were Aad. They denied the clear Messages of their Lord, rebelled against His Messengers and followed the command of every stubborn tyrant.

11:60 And they were pursued in this world by Divine rejection, and will be overtaken by it on the Resurrection Day. Oh, verily, Aad denied their Sustainer! Oh, away with the Aad, the people of Hud!

11:61 And to the nation of Thamud, We sent their brother Saleh. He said, "O My people! Serve Allah. You have no one worthy of obedience but He. He initiated you from the earth and made you thrive thereon. Come to His forgiveness, then turn to Him in repentance mending your ways. My Lord is ever-Near, Responsive."

11:62 They said, "O Saleh! Great hopes We had placed in you before this! But now you are telling us to move away from worshiping what our forefathers worshiped. Verily, now we are in grave doubt, amounting to suspicion about the meaning of your call to us.”

11:63 He said, "O My people! Do you really think? If I have clear evidence of the Truth from my Lord, and there has come to me a mercy from Him, who can help me against Allah if I disobey Him? (If I get intimidated), you can only push me into ruin.

11:64 (The feudal lords had been depriving the poor of using the land and its natural resources of water and vegetation.) Saleh said, “O My people! This she-camel belonging to Allah shall be a token for you. So leave her alone to graze in the land belonging to Allah. Do her no harm, lest speedy punishment befall you (91:13).” (This verse along with 55:10 pronounces one of the most revolutionary concepts of the Qur’an. The land, the earth is owned by none but Allah and must be open for all His creation as a means of sustenance. Hence, all landlord-ship is contrary to the Divine Ordinance. In the Divine System, the Central Authority will see to it that any piece of land will be for those who toil in it and give Allah His Right, the poor-due 6:141).

11:65 But they cruelly slaughtered her. Thereupon He said to his people, “Only for three more days shall you enjoy life in your homes. This is a Promise not to be belied.”

11:66 And so, when Our Command came to pass, by Our grace We saved Saleh and the believers with him from the humiliating annihilation of the day. Verily, your Lord, He alone is Strong, Almighty.

11:67 (Saleh and His followers moved out of the town while the disbelievers stayed back with their mockery.) And a tremendous blast overtook the oppressors, and then they lay lifeless, in their very homes, on the ground.

11:68 As if they had never lived there. Oh, verily, Thamud had denied their Lord. Oh, away with the Thamud!

11:69 (Similar was the outcome of the people of Lot.) Our Messengers came to Abraham bearing a glad tiding. They greeted Abraham with “Peace!” And he greeted them back with "Peace!" and made haste to place before them a roasted calf.

11:70 But when he saw that their hands did not reach out towards it, he deemed their conduct strange and became apprehensive of them. But they said, “Fear not! Behold, we are sent to the people of Lot.” (Abraham was apprehensive thinking the visitors refusing hospitality might have aggressive intentions, but in fact they were hurrying to Lot).

11:71 And his wife (Sarah), standing nearby, laughed when We gave her good tiding of Isaac, and after Isaac, (his son) Jacob.

11:72 She exclaimed, "Oh, woe is me! Shall I bear a child, now that I am an old woman and this husband of mine is an old man? This is really strange!"

11:73 Answered the Messengers, "Do you wonder about Allah’s Command? May Allah’s Grace and Blessings be upon you, O dwellers of the house! Verily the Owner of all Praise, Sublime is He!”

11:74 When the fear had left Abraham, and the good news was conveyed to him, he began to plead with Us for Lot’s people.

11:75 For, Abraham was clement, kind-hearted, ever turning to His Lord.

11:76 (It was said) O Abraham! Forsake this! Your Lord's Command has gone forth, and verily, the retribution is now inevitable.

11:77 When Our Messengers came to Lot he was distressed, and knew not how to save his people. He exclaimed, "This is a difficult day!”

11:78 And the most iniquitous among his people came rushing to Lot. (They wished the visiting Messengers to approve their behavior). Lot said, "O My people! Your wives, who are like my daughters, are permitted for you. Be mindful of Allah’s Laws, and do not humiliate me in the presence of my guests. Is there not a single upright man among you?” (Genesis 19:14 states that Lot offered them his own married daughters. Two daughters and the whole crowd! Nay, a Prophet is the spiritual father of his nation).

11:79 They said, "You know, we have little interest in our wives whom you call your daughters. And, you know well what we want.” (Our intention is to get our behavior into the realm of the Permissible).

11:80 Lot exclaimed, “I wish I had the strength to resist you or had some strong support among you.”

11:81 The visiting Messengers said, "O Lot! Behold, we are Messengers of your Lord. Never shall they follow your guidance nor shall be able to catch up to you. Depart then, with your household

and followers, while it is yet night. Leave this land never to look back again. Except your wife for, what befalls the people will befall her as well. Their appointed time is the morning, and isn't the morning near? (She stays behind because she has chosen to go along with the trends of the times. And she is among those who remain silent at the prevalent wrongdoing).

11:82 And so, when Our Command came to pass, We brought low the highly arrogant towns (Sodom and Gomorrah), and rained down upon them hard devastating rocks (from the volcano).

11:83 The stones were marked arrows from your Lord. His Requital is never far from those who displace the right conduct with wrong.

11:84 And to Midyan, We sent their brother Shoaib. He said, "O My people! Serve Allah alone. There is no god for you but He. And give not short measure and weight. I see that you are well-to-do, but (any system based on injustice is never durable) I fear for you a Day that will surround you with chastisement."

11:85 "Hence, O My people! Always give full measure and weight with equity and do not deprive people of what is rightfully theirs. Do not spread corruption and disorder in the land."

11:86 "That which Allah gives you as just profit is better for you if you believe. But I am not a guardian over you."

11:87 They said, "O Shoaib! (We had thought that your religion was only a matter between you and your Lord). Does your Salat command that we should forsake the worship that our fathers practiced? Or, that we leave off doing what we like to do with our economy? Behold, you want us to think that you are the only clement, and the rightly guided man among us."

11:88 He said, "O My people! Think again! What if I have clear evidence of the Truth from my Lord? What if He has provided me with a decent and honorable sustenance while I follow His Laws? I deal in all fairness and I shall never preach what I don't practice behind your sight. I sincerely desire your betterment so far as I can. But the achievement of my aim depends on Allah alone. I trust in Allah and turn to Him hoping for the best."

11:89 "O My people! Let not my disagreement with you be taken personally to cause you to persist in your guilt so that the same (retribution) befall you that befell the people of Noah, and the people of Hud, and the people of Saleh. And remember that the people of Lot did not live very far from you."

11:90 (None of the nations was destroyed for a deficiency in their worship. They met destruction for violating human rights). "Seek forgiveness of your Lord, then repent by journeying on the right path. You will experience that my Lord is Merciful, Loving."

11:91 They said, "O Shoaib! Much of what you tell us is beyond our comprehension. We see that you are not a man in power in our midst. If we were not concerned about your family and your tribe, we would have stoned you. You are of no value to us."

11:92 He said, "O My people! Is my family and tribe more honorable to you than Allah? You only take His name as a formality. In real life you assign the back seat to Him. Remember, my Lord surrounds all your actions."

11:93 “O My people! Act what is in your power and I will work. Soon you will know upon whom comes a humiliating doom, and who is a liar. And watch! I am a watcher with you.”

11:94 When Our Command came to pass, We saved Shoaib, and those who believed with him, by a mercy from Us. An awful blast seized the wrongdoers. The morning found them dead in their very homes, on the ground. (Shoaib and his companions had moved to safety as forewarned).

11:95 As if they had never lived there. Oh, away with Midyan, just as the Thamud have been done away with!

11:96 And, indeed, We sent Moses with Our Messages and a manifest authority.

11:97 To Pharaoh and his chiefs. They followed only the command of Pharaoh, and his command did not lead to right.

11:98 Pharaoh will go before his people on the Day of Resurrection, and lead them into the Fire. What a miserable place to land! (14:28).

11:99 Divine rejection was made to follow them in this world and will overcome them on the Day of Resurrection. Contemptible is the gift that will be given to them.

11:100 (O Messenger), this is news from only a few of the past communities that We narrate to you. Some of them are merely surviving and some have vanished.

11:101 We did no injustice to them, but they wronged themselves. And when the Command of your Lord came to pass, their gods whom they called besides Allah availed them not. They only added to their ruin.

11:102 Such is the grasp of your Lord's Law of Requital on townships when they run oppressive systems. His grasp is painful, strong.

11:103 Herein, verily is a lesson for those who fear the suffering of the life to come. That is a Day unto which all mankind will be gathered, and that is a Day that will be witnessed by all that ever lived. And the results of all actions will become manifest.

11:104 And We defer the Day only to a specified time.

11:105 On the Day, when it comes, no one will speak except by His Leave. Some of them will be miserable, others glad. (The miserable ones will get deprived of the blessings, and the glad ones will enjoy all the bounties of the eternal life 36:59).

11:106 Now those who by their deeds brought misery on themselves will be in the Fire; sighing and wailing will be their portion. (21:100).

11:107 Therein to abide, as long as the New Universe endures; that is time beyond count, unless your Lord decrees otherwise. Your Lord is Doer of what He Wills in the World of Command. (The current Universe will be dismantled for a new Universe 5:44, 14:48, 21:104, 25:22, 39:37, 69:16, 70:9).

11:108 The happy ones on that Day will enter the Garden and live there as long as the New Universe endures, that is time beyond count; until your Lord opens for them the way to further evolution, a gift unfailing.

11:109 Be not in doubt about the outcome of those who worship idols in any form. They only blindly follow their forefathers. They and their forefathers will get their due portion according to Our Law of Requital.

11:110 People differed even when Moses was given the Scripture. Had it not been for a Word that had already gone forth from your Lord, the case would have been judged between them. (The Word that the Final Revelation, the Qur'an, will come forth with the Plain Truth.) They are still lingering on in their doubts about the Messages of their Lord.

11:111 Unto each your Lord will verily repay his works. He is fully Aware of what they do.

11:112 Therefore, (O Prophet) stand firm as you are commanded, along with those who turn to Allah with you. Remember to be moderate in all your actions. He is watching all that you do.

11:113 Do not be intimidated by the oppressors and guard yourself against even a touch of the Fire. Remember, there are no protectors to help you against the Laws of Allah. And then you will not be helped in any way.

11:114 Strive to establish and consolidate the Divine System, day and night. Actions that create balance in the society remove the ill effects of inequities. Good deeds remove bad deeds. This is a reminder for those who pay attention.

11:115 Be steadfast in service. Allah never loses the wages of the benefactors of humanity.

11:116 (Here is a lesson for the future of humanity.) Alas, among the older generations there were few people of virtue, those who would take a stand against corruption and disorder in the land. Except the few whom We saved for their righteousness. Whereas most people indulged in violation of human rights, enjoying the fleeting delights of the world and thriving on the fruit of others' toil.

11:117 For, your Lord would never annihilate a community for wrong beliefs alone as long as its people behave righteously towards one another. (The Qur'an is consistent in its theme that people will be rewarded according to what they do YA'AMALOON, and not what they know YA'ALAMOON. The reason that the Book stresses so much on the right belief system, is that humans are strongly influenced in their behavior by what they think and believe).

11:118 Had your Lord so willed, He could have made all mankind one single community, (but He has granted them free will as against other creatures 5:48). Therefore, they continue to hold divergent views. Eventually however, the Divine Truth given in the Qur'an will be the dominant force in the world bringing most of the mankind together 9:33, 41:53, 48:28, 61:9).

11:119 Your Lord will have Mercy on those who work toward that Noble Objective. He created them from one common source. The smaller and the bigger communities that defy Divine Laws will fulfill the Word of your Lord, "Verily, I shall fill Hell with the rural and urban mankind all together."

11:120 And (O Messenger), all that We relate to you of the history of some Messengers, is in order to strengthen your heart. Although through these accounts the Truth comes to you, but it is also meant to be an enlightenment and Reminder for all believers in this Divine Writ.

11:121 And tell those who adamantly disbelieve, “Do anything that may be in your power, while, behold, we shall labor in God’s Way.”

11:122 And tell them, “And wait for what is coming. Behold, we are also waiting.”

11:123 And Allah alone comprehends the hidden reality of the heavens and the earth. For, all that exists goes back to Him as its Source. Serve Him, then, and place your trust in Him alone. Your Lord is not unaware of what you humans do.

**Surah 12 – Yusuf – Joseph**

[Author's Note] This is the 12th Surah of the Qur’an. It has 111 verses. In this Surah, the story of Prophet Joseph (Yusuf) is narrated. As usual, the Qur’an validates certain Biblical accounts while correcting the errors that were intermingled with the passage of time. And the Sublime purpose of the Book, even in historical accounts, consistently remains enlightenment for the reader. Prophet Jacob titled Israel, was the son of Isaac and the grandson of Abraham. Jacob (Yaqoob) had twelve sons from four wives. Joseph the second youngest and Benjamin (Binyamin), the youngest had the same mother (Rachel). Joseph was born about 1700 BC in Hebron, Palestine, and according to the Bible died at the age of 110. There are two mandatory qualities for being a good leader: Sincerity and Competence.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

12:1 A.L.R. Allah, Aleem the Knower, Raheem the Merciful. These are the Messages of a Revelation clear in itself and clearly showing the Truth.

12:2 Behold, We have sent it down in all clarity, in the Arabic tongue, so that you might encompass it with your reason.

12:3 We reveal this Qur’an to you (O Prophet), and explain it in the best possible way, seeing that before this you were indeed unaware of what Revelation is.

12:4 Thus spoke Joseph to his father, "O My father! I saw in a dream eleven stars, and the sun, and the moon, I saw them prone themselves unto me!"

12:5 Jacob replied, "O My dear son! Do not relate your dream to your brothers. They might, out of envy, devise a scheme against you. Verily, selfish ego is man’s open enemy."

12:6 "Your Lord will elect you and give you outstanding insight into the reality of things. He will perfect His Grace upon you, and upon the House of Jacob, as He perfected it upon your forefathers, Abraham and Isaac. Verily, your Lord is Knower, Wise.”

12:7 Indeed, in the story of Joseph and his brothers there are messages for all with a seeking mind.

12:8 Now Joseph’s brothers spoke thus to one another, "Joseph and his brother, Benjamin, are dearer to our father even though we are so many. Indeed our father is in plain aberration.”

12:9 One of them proposed, "Let us slay Joseph or leave him in a distant land. Then your father’s favor will be all for you, and your affairs will be adjusted right for you."

12:10 Another of them suggested, "Do not slay Joseph. Rather, if you must do something, cast him into a deep well, and some caravan may pick him up."

12:11 They said, "O Our father! Why don't you trust us with Joseph when we are good friends to him?"

12:12 "Send him with us tomorrow that he may enjoy himself and play. We will take good care of him."

12:13 Jacob said, "I worry that you take him with you to the wild and some wolf devours him when you are distracted.”

12:14 They said, "If a wolf devours him in the strong presence (of the ten) of us, will our lives be worth living?"

12:15 Unanimous in their decision, they led Joseph to cast him into a deep well. When they were placing Joseph in the well, We revealed to him that he would remain secure, and one day he would tell his brothers about what they did. We also revealed to him that it would be a mystery to them as to how Joseph was saved!

12:16 After carrying out their plan they came to their father at night weeping.

12:17 Saying, "O Our father! We went racing among us, and left Joseph by our belongings. A wolf did eat him up. We fear that you will not believe us even if we are telling the truth."

12:18 And they came with false blood on his shirt. He said, "I don't believe this story; you have made it up. I will remain steadfast in the face of your conspiracy, and Allah it is whose help is sought in the kind of misfortune you describe to me."

12:19 And, there came a caravan, and they sent their water drawer. He let down his rope and pail into the well. He called in excitement, "Oh, what a lucky find! It is a teenage boy!" People of the caravan took him along as treasure. And Allah was Aware of what they did.

12:20 They sold him in the market for a low price, a few silver coins. His value they knew not.

12:21 The one who bought him in Egypt said to his wife, "Receive him honorably. Take good care of him. May be he can help us or we can adopt him as a son". We, thus, established Joseph in Egypt and arranged for him proper education and training. He was gifted with a great insight into events. Allah’s Command always prevails although most people won't understand the stages of cause and effect.

12:22 When Joseph reached his prime, We gave him wisdom and knowledge, since he lived upright. This is Our Law that We bestow knowledge and wisdom on those who live a balanced life in youth.

12:23 The lady of the house, tried to seduce him. She closed the doors and said, "I am all yours." He said, "May Allah preserve me! My Sustainer has placed me in a station of balanced character. Those who displace moral values with temptation do not prosper."

12:24 She desired him, and he would have desired her if he had not seen the Argument of his Lord, ("Go not close to adultery" 17:32). Obeying Our Command saved him from evil and lewdness. He was among Our sincere servants.

12:25 And they raced to the door and in the process, she tore his shirt from behind. They found her husband at the door. She said, "What should be the punishment for one who wanted to molest your wife, prison or some chastisement of pain?"

12:26 Joseph said, "She is the one who tried to seduce me." Now a member of her family came and suggested, "If his shirt is torn from the front, then she is telling the truth, and he is the liar.

12:27 And if his shirt is torn from the back then she lied, and he is telling the truth."

12:28 When her husband saw the shirt torn from the back, he said, "This is the typical scheme of you women. Your scheming is formidable." (His discriminatory comment shows his anger, and that women in that society were not viewed well).

12:29 He said, "O Joseph! Forget about what happened. And you O woman! Ask forgiveness. For, you have been greatly at fault."

12:30 Women in the city started gossiping, "The governor's wife is trying to seduce her servant. She is deeply in love with him. But we see that she adopted the wrong tactics."

12:31 When she heard their gossip, she invited them, and prepared comfortable couches for them, and they schemed. She gave a knife to each of the women. Then, she called Joseph, "Come out unto them!" And when they saw him they flattered him and 'cut their hands'. They exclaimed in their flattery, "Good Lord! This is no mortal man! This is but an angel!" (The governor's wife and her friends had planned to incriminate Joseph, and they were just buying time. They made marks on their hands to feign self-defense. There is absolutely no mention of the supposed "beauty' of Joseph, a fabrication adopted by most commentators from the Bible! Secondly, the root word QAT'A in this verse is of very special significance. Did these women chop off their hands? Must the thieves get their hands chopped off? Please see 5:38-39).

12:32 The lady of the house said, "This is he about whom you blamed me. I tried to seduce him but he preserved himself. Since he thinks he is an angel, and remains adamant against my command, he shall be imprisoned and brought low. (And, now we have the evidence against him with marks on your hands. We will humiliate him).

12:33 Joseph said, "O My Lord! Prison is dearer to me than these women's schemes. If you did not help me fend off their design, I am afraid of their intimidation, and of behaving like the unguided."

12:34 His Lord heard his prayer, and helped Joseph remain steadfast in fending off their schemes. Verily, He is the Hearer, the Knower of all intentions and actions.

12:35 (The women brought a suit against him.) The judges after seeing the marks on their hands put him in prison for a time.

12:36 Two young men went to prison with him (for unrelated crimes). One of them (a butler) told his dream, "I saw myself making wine." The other (a baker) said, "I saw myself carrying bread on my head from which birds were eating. Can you tell us what this means? We see that you are a doer of good."

12:37 He said, "I will tell you the meaning before today's meal is served. But, remember, that it is my Lord Who teaches me through Revelation. I am not one of those who reject Allah's Laws and disbelieve in the accountability of the life to come."

12:38 "I follow the creed of such ancestors as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is not conceivable that we ever ascribe partners to Allah. This belief in the Oneness of God is of the Bounty of Allah upon us and upon all mankind. (It frees them from bondage to superstition and to 'men of religion'). But the majority of people fail to grasp this point, and thus remain thankless."

12:39 "O My prison mates! Are several masters better, or Allah, the One, the Dominant?"

12:40 "Those whom you worship and obey besides Him, are but names that you have named, you and your forefathers. Allah has revealed no authority for them. All ruling belongs to Allah alone. And there is no Judge but He. He has commanded that you serve none but Him. That is the Right Religion. But most people are not aware of this fact or disregard it in practice."

12:41 "O My prison mates! The first of you will be (restored as) the chief wine butler for the King. The other one (the chief baker of the King) will be crucified and birds will eat off his head. Thus is the case decided about what you ask."

12:42 Joseph asked the one whom he thought would be released, "Mention me in the presence of your King." But, his selfish ways made him ignore to mention it to the King, so Joseph stayed in prison for a few years.

12:43 And one day the King of Egypt said to his court, "I have dreamed seven fat cows being eaten up by seven lean cows and seven green spikes of wheat and (seven) dry. O My chiefs! Explain to me my vision, if you can interpret dreams."

12:44 They answered, "Confused nightmares! We are not skilled in interpreting such dreams."

12:45 The one who was released (the chief butler) at long last remembered. He said, "I can bring you the meaning, so send me forth."

12:46 He said, "Joseph! O you truthful one! Explain for us the seven fat cows being eaten by seven lean ones, and the seven green spikes of wheat and others dry. I wish to go back with information that they may know" (the interpretation and your value).

12:47 Joseph (without blaming him for his forgetfulness) told him the meaning and the way to avert the oncoming famine, “Work hard on agriculture for seven seasons. When you harvest the crop, only reap the amount you need. Leave the rest of the grains in the spikes.”

12:48 “Then after that will come seven dry seasons which will use up all that you have prepared for them, but a little that you have stored up.”

12:49 “After that, one year will come with good rains and the crops will be plenty. You will get abundant grain and fruit, and a lot of oil and juice to squeeze.”

12:50 And the King said, “Bring him before me!” When the courier came to Joseph, he said, "Return to your King and ask him to find out the case of the women who marked their hands. Verily, my Lord knows their plot." (Joseph asked for investigation before being released, to vindicate his character).

12:51 The King sent for those women, and asked them, "What happened when you tried to seduce Joseph?" They answered, "Good Lord! We found no evil in him." The wife of the governor (Zelicha) couldn't hold back, "Now the truth is out. I was the one at fault and he is surely truthful."

12:52 (When Joseph learned this) He said, "I hope that the governor will realize that I never betrayed him in his absence. And Allah never leads to success those who betray Him and betray the trust of people."

12:53 "I do not claim that I am angelic, with no ego or desire. The human “Self” is not invincible against temptation (unless we make it surrender to the Divine Commands). It is my Lord’s Mercy that mankind are in control of their behavior. Verily, my Lord is Absolver of imperfections, Merciful.”

12:54 The King said, "Bring him to me so that I may appoint him a close adviser to me." And when he had spoken with him, the King decreed, "From today on you have a high standing with us, invested with all trust."

12:55 Joseph replied, "Place in my charge the treasury of the State. I shall be a competent custodian." (Now that he could personally handle the oncoming drought).

12:56 Thus, We gave established power to Joseph in the land (of Egypt). He had full mastery over it, ruling as he saw fit. We bestow Our Grace according to Our Laws, and never waste the reward of the doers of good.

12:57 And the reward in the life to come is phenomenally better for all those who attain belief and walk aright.

12:58 (And after some years) Joseph’s brothers came and presented themselves before him. Joseph recognized them, but they did not. (They came from Canaan to buy grain as places around Egypt started suffering the drought).

12:59 And when he had given them suitable provisions, he said, “Next time bring to me that brother of yours from your father’s side. Now you have seen that I am just and hospitable.”

12:60 "And if you don't bring him to me, you will get no share from me; you will not even come close."

12:61 They said, “We shall try to persuade his father to let him go; that we will surely do.”

12:62 Joseph said to his servants, “Load their barter (the price of wheat) back in their saddlebags. So that they may find it when they come home, and hence be more eager to return.”

12:63 When they went back to their father, they said, “O Our father! All grain is to be withheld from us unless you send with us our brother (Benjamin). So send him that we may obtain the measure, surely, we shall guard him well.”

12:64 Jacob said, "Shall I trust you with him as I trusted you with his brother? Allah is better at Guarding and He is the most Merciful of the merciful."

12:65 When they opened their packs, they discovered that their barter had been returned to them. (The grand minister, the Prophet of God, had paid on their behalf). They said, “O Our father! What more can we ask? We shall bring food for our family and guard our brother. And we shall have the extra measure of a camel load. The first load we have brought is but scant.”

12:66 Jacob said, “I will not send him with you till you give me a solemn pledge in the name of Allah, that you will bring him back to me unless you get surrounded (by circumstances beyond control). And when they gave him their solemn pledge, he said, "Allah is the Warden over all we say."

12:67 And he said, “O My sons! Do not enter the town all by one gate, but enter by different gates. Yet, I cannot avail you against the Divine Laws. (So, handle all situations accordingly). Rule and Law-giving belongs to Allah alone. In Him I trust, and everyone must place trust in Him since the Divine Laws never change." (17:77, 33:38, 35:43). (It is a common misconception that Jacob told his eleven sons to enter by different gates to obviate ‘evil eye’. Historically the brothers had been accused of spying on a previous occasion. The Qur’an consistently rejects all superstition).

12:68 When they went, they entered the town as their father instructed. Jacob was quite right that even he (a Prophet of God) could not avail them against the Divine Laws. It was a duty that he did (giving the correct advice to his sons), although it could not prevent what was to happen (with Benjamin 12:75-81). He was, by Our teaching, full of knowledge. And most people are devoid of that level of insight.

12:69 When they met with Joseph, he brought his brother closer to him and said, "I am your brother, do not grieve about what they have been doing to us."

12:70 As the camels were loading, one of the brothers hid the drinking-cup in Benjamin's saddlebag (12:77, 83, 89). Then a caller cried, "O Camel-riders! You are thieves!" (The Qur’an here corrects the statement in Genesis that it was Joseph who placed the cup in their pack).

12:71 They said, coming towards them, "What is it that you have lost?"

12:72 They said, “We have lost the King's cup, and whoever produces it shall have an extra camel-load, and I (the chief royal servant) guarantee that.”

12:73 They explained, “By God! Well you know that we did not come here to create mischief in the land, and we are no thieves.”

12:74 The callers asked, "What shall be the penalty for it if you prove liars?"

12:75 The brothers replied, "The penalty for it! He in whose bag the cup is found he shall be the penalty for it. (The thief belongs to you). Thus we requite the doers of such wrong (in our land)."

12:76 They were brought before Joseph for the search. He began with the bags of his half-brothers before the bag of his brother (Benjamin). And finally extracted the cup out of his brother’s bag. We thus perfected the plan for Joseph. He could not have detained his brother under the King's law. But that was the Will of Allah. We raise people in ranks according to Our Laws. And above every person of knowledge there is One who knows all.

12:77 The brothers said, "If he stole, so did his brother in the past." Joseph stayed quiet, revealing nothing. He only said in his heart, "You are in worse case, and Allah is the Best Knower of what you allege."

12:78 They said to Joseph, "O Noble one! He has an aged father, so take one of us instead of him. We see that you are a doer of good."

12:79 Joseph (stressing the circumstantial evidence) answered, “God preserve us from detaining other than him with whom we have found our property. For, then we would indeed be unjust.”

12:80 So, when they lost hope, they conferred in solitude. The eldest among them said, “Don’t you know that your father took a solemn pledge from you in Allah’s name, and how you failed in the case of Joseph before? I shall not go from this place until my father gives leave or Allah judges for me. He is the Best of deciders.”

12:81 He told the rest of the nine brothers, “Return to your father and say, ‘O Our father! Verily, your son has stolen. We know for sure, because we witnessed it. That was something beyond our knowledge and control.

12:82 Ask the township where we were, and the caravan we came with. We are indeed telling the truth.’"

12:83 Jacob said, "Nay, you have made up yet another story good enough only for you. But I resort to decent forbearance. May Allah bring them all to me. Verily, He, only He, is the Knower, the Wise."

12:84 Then Jacob turned away from them saying, “Alas, my grief for Joseph!” His eyes glistened with tears but he suppressed his grief.” (Jacob worried more about Joseph since he had no news of him yet. Many exponents at this point have ventured into strange guesswork. They report that Prophet Jacob became blind with grief and cried incessantly for eighty years grieving for Joseph! The Bible relates that Jacob lived to be 147 years old. Even so, it is not befitting of a Prophet of God, or even an ordinary person, to turn blind with grief and weep incessantly for 80 years. The whiteness of his eyes in this verse clearly refers to his eyes glistening with tears momentarily. And then he controlled his grief).

12:85 His sons said, "By God! You will never cease remembering Joseph until your health is ruined or you perish."

12:86. He said, "I present my distress and anguish only to Allah and I know from Allah what you know not."

12:87 “O My sons! Go and find Joseph and his brother and never despair of the soothing Mercy of Allah. None but the disbelievers (in His Attributes) despair of the soothing Mercy of Allah.”

12:88 When they came before Joseph, they said, “O Noble one! We have suffered a lot of hardship along with our family. We bring only inferior barter to pay. So give us the full measure, and be charitable to us. Allah rewards the charitable.”

12:89 As he granted the request, Joseph said, “Do you remember what you did to Joseph and his brother in your ignorance?”

12:90 They exclaimed, “Wow! Is it indeed you who are Joseph?” He answered, “I am Joseph and this is my brother. Allah has been Gracious to us. Verily, if one walks aright and is steadfast, Allah never loses the reward of such doers of good.”

12:91 They said, “By God! Certainly Allah has raised you above us, and we were indeed at fault.”

12:92 Joseph said, “There is no blame on you this day! May Allah forgive you, and He is the Most Merciful of the merciful.”

12:93 Now, go and take this royal shirt of mine and show it to my father. He will see the reality of things. Then, bring all your family to me.

12:94 As soon as the caravan departed from Egypt, their father (Jacob) began telling his neighbors in Canaan about the Revelation that his son Joseph was in a position of high authority. “I do indeed scent the presence of Joseph even though you may call me senile.”

12:95 The skeptics said, “By God! You are still in your old confusion.”

12:96 The caravan arrived in Canaan and the good news was given to Jacob. When Joseph’s royal shirt was shown to Jacob, he was delighted and his eyes saw the reality. He said, “Didn’t I tell you that I know from Allah what you know not ?”

12:97 They said, “O Our father! Ask forgiveness for us, for we trailed behind in your obedience, indeed we were at fault.”

12:98 Jacob answered, “I shall ask forgiveness for you from my Sustainer. Verily, He is Forgiving, Merciful.”

12:99 And when they came in before Joseph, he respectfully greeted his parents, “Welcome to Egypt! God willing you will be in safety and peace here.”

12:100 He raised his parents upon the throne of honor. All those present bowed to him in respect (To let his parents see the honor Allah had given their son). Joseph said, “O My father! This is how

my Lord has made my dream come true. He has been very kind to me, since He freed me from the prison, and He has brought you here from the village. Satan (selfishness of my brothers) had sown enmity between us brothers. Verily, my Lord is Sublime in helping the worthy. He is the Knower, the Wise."

12:101 Then, Joseph prayed, "O My Lord! You have indeed bestowed upon me some kingship, and have imparted to me the insight into events. Originator of the heavens and the earth! You are my Protecting Friend in the world and the Hereafter. Help me remain committed to your Commands till the last breath, and be counted among those who help augment the human potential."

12:102 (O Prophet Muhammad) These are the chapters of the Unseen (history) that We reveal to you. You were not there when the brothers of Joseph decided together and were making their schemes.

12:103 (Although you narrated the accurate account of Joseph as they demanded), most of these people will not believe even as you compassionately so desire.

12:104 Although you ask them no reward for it. It is but a Reminder for the Worlds.

12:105 How many a Sign is there in the heavens and the earth which they pass by with their faces turned away!

12:106 The majority of those who claim to believe in Allah, practically submit to false authorities; humans and idols in countless forms. That is indeed SHIRK and they are MUSHRIKOON.

12:107 Do they deem themselves secure from the overwhelming Requital of Allah, or the coming of the Hour suddenly while they are unaware?

12:108 Say (O Prophet), "This is my way. Resting my call upon insight accessible to reason. I am calling you all to Allah, I and they who follow me." (We do not invite through blind faith, vague dogmas or by stunning your intellect with miracles). Glory to Allah! And I am not one of those who ascribe divinity in any form besides Him."

12:109 And even before your time, We never sent (as Our Messengers) but men to whom We revealed Our Messages. We always chose them from among the people of their own communities. Have they then never journeyed about the earth and seen what happened in the end to those who lived before them? And, don't they know that those who walk aright, the life to come is better for them. Will they not then, use reason?

12:110 There have been times when even the Messengers had lost all hope of reformation and thought that they had been denied. Then came Our help. We saved everyone worthy of being saved. Without exception We punished those who thrived on the fruit of others' toil.

12:111 Indeed in the history of these men, there is a lesson for people of understanding. As for this Revelation, it could not possibly be a hadith, fabricated. It confirms the Divine Origin of the previous Scriptures, and gives a detailed explanation of everything. And it is a Beacon and Mercy for all those who accept it.

**Surah 13 – Ar-Ra'd – The Thunder**

[Author's Note] This is the 13th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 43 verses. 13:13 clearly indicates thunder being an angel of God. And a saying of the exalted Messenger emphasizes this fact. Yet, under the Biblical influence most Muslims think of angels only as winged creatures flying across the Universe. The Qur'an, in all compassion, does not expect us to know the exact nature of things that are beyond the present state of our mind. For example, we believe according to the Book of Allah that His Messages were conveyed to the Prophets' hearts, through the angels of Revelation. How exactly this process took place, then carries little significance. In general the Qur'an implies 'angels' to be Allah's physical Laws and Forces operative in the Universe.

("The real existence on earth is of the one who benefits humanity" 13:17.)

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

13:1 A.L.M.R. Alif. Laam. Mim. Ra. Allah Aleem the Knower, Kareem the Honored, Raheem the Merciful. These are the verses of the Divine Writ, the Scripture. That which is revealed to you (O Prophet) from your Sustainer is the Truth. Yet most people do not believe in it.

Until recently the sun was thought to be stationary, but today we know that the sun, along with Solar System, is moving toward the "Constellation of Hercules," also called as the "Solar Apex", at a speed of 150 miles per second).

13:3 And He it is Who has spread the earth wide and placed therein firm mountains, and flowing streams. And (He) created thereon couples of every kind of plants (and their fruit). (Plants have male and female flowers, and some trees like the date-palm are unisexual, male and female). He causes the night to cover the day. Verily, in all this there are Signs for people who think!

13:4 And, on earth are many lots and tracts of land in proximity, yet widely differing from one another in composition and quality. On it, there are vineyards, and fields of grain, date and palm-trees, growing in clusters or standing alone. All of them are watered by the same water and yet, We have made some of them excel others in fruit. Verily, in all this there are Messages for people who use sense.

13:5 If you wonder, then wondrous is their saying, "What! After we have become dust, shall we indeed be restored to life in a new act of creation?" It is they who are bent upon denying their Sustainer. As a result, it is they who carry the shackles of their own making around their necks. And it is they who are destined for the Fire, therein to abide.

13:6 (Instead of helping you establish and consolidate the Divine System on earth), they challenge you (O Prophet) to hasten the disaster that strikes nations when they ignore the Divine Values. Sufficient precedents have been set for them in the form of exemplary punishments to generations before them. Now, behold, your Lord is Full of forgiveness for people despite their wrongdoing. But, behold, your Lord is also Strict in retribution! (He has decreed the Law of Respite during which period people can safely mend their ways).

13:7 The rejecters of the Truth keep complaining, "Why has no miracle ever been bestowed upon him from his Lord?" You (O Prophet) are but a Warner for every nation there is and ever will be. (The Perfect Divine Guidance through the Prophet shall be preserved in the form of the Qur'an for

all times and all peoples 6:34, 6:91, 6:116, 10:64, 15:9 18:27, 41:53, 75:16-19. And his prime duty is to counsel mankind that false individual or collective systems of life only end up in disaster).

13:8 Allah knows what any female bears, and what decrease or increase takes place in the womb. Everything has a due measure with Him. (Allah's Guidance is a Mercy to humanity. You may liken it to the nourishment of the embryo in the evolving environment of the womb. The embryo lodges in security and its needs are met in a timely fashion and in perfect balance. Then it comes to the world ready to thrive. This is how the Divine System, when established in a society, nourishes the individual).

13:9 He has perfect Knowledge of the visible and the invisible. He is the Great, Most High.

13:10 It is all alike to Him whether any of you conceals his thoughts or declares them, and whether he seeks to hide under the cover of night or walks boldly in the light of day.

13:11 A person may think that he has helpers, perceptible (wealth etc) and imperceptible (status etc) that could preserve him from Allah's Requital. But the Law of Requital applies to individuals and nations. Verily, Allah never changes a nation's condition unless they change their inner selves (8:53). And when nations suffer Allah's Requital for their actions, there is none that can repel it, nor do they have a defender outside His Laws.

13:12 He it is Who displays before you the lightning, to cause fear and hope, and initiates heavy clouds. (Similarly, the Light of Guidance brings to you the warning and a good tiding.)

13:13 And the thunder and the (other) angels strive to glorify Him by carrying out their duties in awe of Him. And He it is Whose physical Laws let loose the thunderbolt to strike the earth. And yet they stubbornly argue about Allah's Laws (and fall for superstitions). Though Awesome He is in Power.

13:14 Calling upon, and working in line with His Laws yield solid results. Those unto whom they call besides Allah, respond to them not at all. Thus they are like those who stretch their hands to the water which is not there. So nothing reaches their mouths. Hence, the prayer of the deniers of the Divine Laws is but vain prayer (4:123).

13:15 And before Allah bow, willingly or unwillingly, all beings that are in the heavens and earth, as do their shadows in the mornings and evenings (3:82, 41:11).

13:16 Ask them, "Who is the Lord of the Highs and the Lows?" Say, "Allah!" (23:84-90, 29:21-23). Then ask, "Why then, do you take as protectors besides Him those who have neither benefit, nor harm even for themselves?" (When you acknowledge Him as the God of the heavens, what stops you from acknowledging Him as God of the earth, and thus, as the Law-giving Authority? (6:3, 21:21-22, 43:84). Say, "Is the blind of reason equal to the seer, or is darkness equal to light?" (11:24, 35:19). Have their 'partners' of Allah created something like He has created, so that this act of creation appears to them to be similar? Say, "Allah is the Creator of all things. He is the One, Dominating."

13:17 He sends down water from the height causing the riverbeds to flow according to their measure, and the flood bears on its surface swelling foam. And, when they use fire to refine metals for their jewelry or equipment, foam is produced like it. In this way Allah is citing for you the example of the Truth and the Falsehood. For, as far as the foam is concerned, it passes away as

scum upon the banks. While that which is of benefit to mankind, abides on earth. (The real existence on earth is of the person or the system that benefits humanity). This is how Allah uses analogies for you to understand.

13:18 For those who respond to their Sustainer decently, is a state of Bliss. And those who do not respond to Him, even if they had all the treasures of the world and more like it, they would readily give it as ransom. But, a terrible reckoning awaits them, and Hell will be their abode, what a miserable bed to lie on!

13:19 Is, then, he who knows that what has been revealed to you (O Prophet), is the Truth from your Sustainer, like him who chooses to remain blind? Only those who develop their insight will bear this in mind.

13:20 Those people of insight who:

- Are true to their bond with Allah (their allegiance to the Divine System).
- Keep their pledge with Allah and with human beings.

13:21

- Build bridges of goodwill between people, and strengthen all ties of human relationships as Allah has commanded. (2:27).
- And stand in awe of their Sustainer. (They do not relegate His Commands to the level of others' utterances).
- And fear the eventuality of a tough accountability.

13:22
- They persevere in the face of adversities on way to seeking the Approval of their Sustainer.
- They help establish and consolidate the Divine System, and the Permanent Values.
- Spend on others of the provision We have given them, in secret and in public.
- And they counter harshness with kind manners.

It is these that will find fulfillment in the Eternal Home.

13:23 They will enter the Gardens of Eden, along with all who are righteous of their parents, spouses and children. Angels will greet them at every gate.

13:24 Saying, "Peace be upon you, since you remained steadfast in your commitment! Ah, what an excellent final home!"

13:25 But those who broke the pledge with Allah after ratifying it, and cut asunder what Allah has commanded to be joined (13:20-21), and spread corruption and disorder in the earth, their due is (the Divine) rejection. And theirs is the terrible Home!

13:26 Allah grants abundant provision, or gives it in scant measure according to His Laws (17:18-21). And they (rejecters of the Divine Values) rejoice in the life of this world alone (without investing in the Eternity). But the life of this world is a fleeting pleasure compared with the Hereafter (2:200-201).

13:27 (These Laws are unwavering.) Now those who are bent upon denying say, “Why has no miracle ever been bestowed upon him from his Lord?” Say, “People go astray according to Allah's

Laws, and attain guidance according to His Laws. (4:88). (Man has been endowed with free will and there is no compulsion or coercion in Religion, whether physical, emotional or intellectual (2:256, 12:108).

13:28 Those who attain faith through reason, their hearts find rest in the practical remembrance of Allah, that is, in following His Commands. For, verily, remembering Allah by following His Commands ensures tranquility in the hearts.

13:29 The abode of Bliss is guaranteed to those who accept the Message and fulfill the needs of others (3:13).

13:30 (O Messenger), We have sent you as We sent the Messengers before you so that you convey to them what We reveal to you, for in their ignorance, they deny the Most Gracious. Say, "He is my Lord, there is no deity except Him. In Him I put my trust and to Him is my recourse."

13:31 Our Law precludes the possibility that a Lecture would move the mountains, tear the earth asunder, or make the dead speak. (The Qur'an is intended to move hearts, not mountains 6:7, 6:25, 6:112, 15:14-15, 17:90-93). Nay, all Decree belongs to Allah. Do not the believers know that if Allah had Willed, He could have guided all mankind (by not giving them free will 10:100)? As for the rejecters of the Divine Laws, disasters will not cease to strike them for their deeds, even close to their homes until the Promise of Allah comes to pass. Verily, Allah never fails in His Promise. (Mankind will keep devising various political systems in search for the best. Those systems will keep collapsing and they will keep suffering far and close to their homes. Then, ultimately, they will realize that the Qur'an offers the solutions to all the problems facing humanity 41:53, 51:20-21).

13:32 And verily, Messengers were mocked before you, but I gave the rejecters plenty of Respite. At length I seized them, and how awesome was My Requital!

13:33 Is there anyone equal to the One Who watches minutely over every being and knows all that it does? Yet, they set up idols to rival Allah. Say, "Name them! Are you educating Him about something on earth that He doesn't know? Or, do you merely utter empty words?" Nay, what they contrive, seems fair to the rejecters of the Truth, for they have been hindered (by their own fault) from the Way. Whoever goes astray for violating the Divine Laws of Guidance, for him there is no guide. (4:88).

13:34 For them is torment in the life of this world, and verily the doom of the life to come is harder, and they will have no savior for them against Allah.

13:35 The similitude of the Garden which is promised for the upright, is flowing streams beneath, its fruit everlasting, and cool shades (14:25, 47:15). This is the reward of the upright, while the reward of the rejecters is the Fire.

13:36 Hence, they unto whom We have given the Book rejoice in what is revealed to you (O Prophet). But among the groups that follow other creeds, there are such who deny some of it. (They even preach that some of the verses have been abrogated, or that they have a hidden meaning!) Say, "I am commanded only that I serve Allah and associate none with Him. Unto Him I invite all mankind, and He is my goal."

13:37 Thus, We have revealed it, a Decisive Authority in Arabic. (O Prophet), indeed if you got influenced by people's likes and dislikes after the Knowledge has come to you, you will have no protector or savior against Allah.

13:38 And verily We sent Messengers before you, and We appointed for them wives and children as well. (They all were mortal human beings and they conveyed Allah's Revelation as commanded). It was not given to any Messenger that he could bring a Sign (the requital they hastened for), but it came according to Allah's Law of Respite. For every rise and for every fall, there is a Written Law. (7:34). 13:39 Allah blots out and establishes communities according to His Laws. Nations rise and fall accordingly, and with Him is the Ultimate Ordinance.

13:40 (O Messenger) Whether We show you what We promise them, or cause you to die before that, your duty is to convey the Message. And the reckoning is Ours.

13:41 Don't they see that every day on earth brings them closer to the end? For, when Allah judges, there is no power that could repel His Judgment. And Swift in reckoning is He!

13:42 Now those who lived before these people, also devised schemes, but the most Subtle devising is that of Allah. He knows what every "Self" earns. The rejecters will soon find out as to whom belongs the Future.

13:43 The disbelievers say, "You have not been sent (by God)." Say, "None can bear witness between me and you as Allah does; and then, none can bear witness as the one who truly understands this Book by way of reason." (Allah will soon prove me true).

## Surah 14 – Ibrahim – Abraham Surah 14 – Ibrahim – Abraham

[Author's Note] This is the 14th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 52 Verses. Prophet Abraham lived around 1800 B.C in Ur, Babylon (Mesopotamia, now Iraq), Canaan (Palestine), and later Makkah. He is the ancestor of Jews and Arabs. Isaac was his son from Sarah, and Ishmael (Ismael) was his son from Hagar (Hajirah). From his son Isaac descended Jacob (Israel) and the Children of Israel. Through his other son Ishmael descended the Arabs and Allah's last Messenger, Muhammad, the exalted.

Abraham's father Azar, as the Chief Priest, was the most powerful man in Babylon, next only to the King. As the progeny of Azar, Abraham and Ishmael were entitled to the luxurious and powerful office of the Chief Priesthood in the court of King Nimrod. But they sacrificed all temptation in order to follow the Commands of Allah and strove to establish True Monotheism wherever they lived.

[A footnote: Midyan was the name of Prophet Abraham's son from his third wife, Qatura. His progeny had settled in the Arabian Peninsula as well, and Prophet Shoaib (Jethro) was sent to the Midyans during the times of Moses].

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

14:1 A.L.R. Alif. Laam. Ra. Allah Aleem the Knower, Raziq the Provider. A Divine Writ is this that We have revealed to you (O Prophet). So that you may bring forth all mankind, by their Sustainer's

leave, out of darkness into Light. On to the Way that leads to the Almighty, the Owner of all praise. (14:5, 33:43).

14:2 Allah to Whom belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. (His Commands must govern your social order as they govern the Universe). Therefore, those who reject His Guidance, incur an awful retribution.

14:3 They choose the life of this world as the sole object of their love, preferring it to the life to come, and debar people from the Path of Allah. (They oppose reform in order to protect their vested interests). They try to make the Straight Path crooked. They have indeed gone far astray!

14:4 We never sent a Messenger who did not speak the language of his people, so that he might make the Message clear to them. People go astray or attain guidance according to Allah's Laws (4:88). He is Almighty, Wise.

14:5 (Moses spoke the language of his people.) We sent him with Our Messages, saying, "Bring your people from darkness to Light and remind them of the days of Allah (when different nations earned His Blessings). Verily, there are lessons in the history of nations for those who are steadfast in their resolve to rise as a community and wish that their efforts be fruitful." (SHUKR or gratefulness is not just the verbal proclamation of 'Thank God!' It pertains to our efforts bearing fruit, and then our sharing of the fruit of success with the servants of Allah)).

14:6 And, Moses spoke thus to his people, "Remember Allah's Blessing upon you when he saved you from Pharaoh's people. They used to persecute you, and were killing your sons and sparing your women. From your Lord's Law of Requital that was a tremendous hardship on you."

14:7 Your Lord proclaimed, "If you become practically grateful (by establishing a system where everyone equitably receives the Divine Bounties), I will give you more. And if you violated this Law, remember that My Requital is strict."

14:8 Moses made it clear to his people that obedience to the Divine Commands was only good for them, "If you deny the Truth, you and all those who live in the earth, know that Allah is indeed Self-sufficient, Owner of Praise."

14:9 "Has not the history of the previous nations reached you? Of Noah and Aad and Thamud, and others who came after them, known only to Allah? (Their histories not known to people). Their Messengers came to them with clear evidence of the Truth, but the people tried to smother their voice, saying, "We reject what you have been sent with. We are in great doubt concerning your call."

14:10 Their Messengers said, "Can there be any doubt about Allah, the Initiator of the Highs and the Lows? He only calls you that He may grant you the protection of His forgiveness, to save you from trailing behind in humanity and to sustain your community for a long time." They said, "You are but mortals like us! You want us to turn away from the way our ancestors used to worship. Then bring us a convincing miracle?" (Allah is far too Glorious from feeling offended by idol worship in any form. But submitting to false deities and 'authorities' is the root cause of inequities in any society, such as superstition, exploitation, ritualism and division of humanity into castes and sects, and the resulting violation of human rights. That is why all Messengers of God began their mission by calling people to the worship and obedience of the One True God).

14:11 Without exception their Messengers said to them, "Yes, we are human beings like you. Allah gives His grace of Revelation to whom He chooses among His servants. We work within the Laws of Allah that preclude the performance of supernatural miracles.” (The right way to attain firm belief is reflecting at the Universe, within our own selves, at the accounts of history, and upon these verses. That is the general approach of the Book). “Then you can attain the belief whence you can firmly put your trust in the never changing Laws of Allah.”

14:12 “Why should we not put our trust in Allah? Even in the face of your persecution, we walk the path we have been shown, with uncompromising resolve. All those who wish to entrust the results of their actions with someone, must put their ultimate trust in the Laws of Allah."

14:13 The rejecters resorted to threatening the Messengers, “We will banish you from our land unless you join our religion.” Then their Lord revealed to them, “Verily, Our Law of Requital will bring low those who try to displace truth with falsehood and insist on running oppressive systems.”

14:14 “And verily We will establish you in the land after them. This reward is for those who recognize My Majesty and My Warning, and thus respect the Permanent Values given by Me.”

14:15 The Messengers earnestly sought help from their Lord, and every stubborn tyrant ended up frustrated.

14:16 Behind every stubborn tyrant, the enemy of Truth, is the Hell of his own making and before him is the drink of distress. (Such people hinder their own development and forfeit inner peace in this life as well 47:15).

14:17 How difficult it is to swallow the bitterness of self-imposed failure! A life unlived, a mere survival, neither living nor dead (20:74, 87:13). What a heavy retribution!

14:18 Here is a similitude. The works of those who live rejecting the Permanent Values of their Lord are like ashes that the wind blows away on a stormy day. They gain naught for their deeds (13:17). That is the outcome of following trails that lead nowhere (14:24-26).

14:19 Have you not realized that Allah has created the heavens and the earth with a sublime Purpose? If He Will, He can do away with you and bring a new creation. (4:133, 7:146, 9:39, 47:38).

14:20 Implementation of His Laws is not at all difficult for Allah.

14:21 All mankind will appear before Allah. Then the ones who had disabled their minds with blind following will say to their ‘self-glorified’ leaders, "We used to follow you. Can you divert some of the requital from us?" The leaders will respond, "If Allah had guided us, we would have guided you. Ah, it is too late! Now it makes no difference whether we panic in grief or try to bear it in patience, there is no escape for us." (It is noteworthy here that Satan had brought the same argument that his Lord sent him astray 7:16).

14:22 Satan (their selfish desires) will disown them after the Judgment has been issued, "Verily Allah promised you a true promise; and I promised you and failed you. And I had no power over you except that I called unto you and you obeyed me. So blame me not, but blame yourselves. Neither can I help you, nor can you help me. I refuse to accept that you worshiped me ever." Verily, for those who displace trust with betrayal is a painful doom.

14:23 And those who attained belief and augmented the human potential, will be admitted to the Gardens underneath which rivers flow, therein abiding by their Lord’s Leave. Their greeting therein is, “Peace!”

14:24 See! Allah teaches you by an example. A Goodly Word! The Divine Ideology is like a good tree firmly rooted in the earth and its branches are swinging high in the heaven. (This Ideology ensures blessings in both lives. Also, it guarantees prosperity in the earth under Heavenly Guidance).

14:25 The tree of this Ideology bears fruit in all seasons by Leave of its Lord. Allah gives examples to mankind that they may reflect.

14:26 And the example of an evil ideology is that of a bad tree that gets easily uprooted from the surface of the earth, and it has no stability. (It is neither firmly rooted, nor reaches any heights).

14:27 Allah strengthens those who accept (the good tree of) Divine Ideology in the life of this world and in the Hereafter. Allah’s Law sends astray those who displace truth with falsehood. And Allah does everything according to His Laws.

14:28 Have you not seen those who respond to the blessings of Allah with ingratitude and lead their people to an abode of utter desolation? (They show ingratitude by holding on to Allah’s blessings for themselves, and exhort their people to do the same).

14:29 Hell, which they will have to endure, what an evil place to stay!

14:30 They set up rivals to Allah that they may mislead people from His Path. (They take "Imams" as their authorities instead of the Word of Allah, thus setting up rivals to Him). Tell them, "Enjoy life while you may, for your sure destination is the Fire.”

14:31 (O Prophet) "Tell My servants to establish and consolidate the Divine System and spend of the provision We have given them, on others, secretly and publicly, before a Day comes wherein there shall be no trading of deeds nor friendship be of avail.” (2:254).

14:32 (Think about the Source of your wealth and provision). Allah it is Who has created the heavens and the earth, and sends down water from the sky, thereby producing fruit and vegetation as provision for you. And He makes ships and boats to be of service to you that they sail in the sea by His Command, and has made of service to you the rivers.

14:33 And makes the sun and the moon, both of them constant on their courses. And committed the night and the day to serve you.

14:34 And He gives you all that you would be asking Him for (55:29). If you count the blessings of Allah’s provision (they are so diverse that) never will you be able to number them. But verily, man when practically ingrate, is a wrongdoer to himself. (He is given to greed and hoarding).

14:35 (Mankind needs Divine Guidance to be saved from selfishness and greed. To teach justice and equity among people Abraham founded the Sacred Center 2:125). Recall that Abraham said, “My Lord! Make this a peaceful land and preserve me and my children from worshiping idols in any form.”

14:36 “My Lord! The keepers of these idols and temples mislead a great many people. Whoever will follow me, will be of me, as the relationships would stand on Ideology (2:124, 60:4). Anyone who rebels against me, his or her case shall be with You. You are Forgiving, Merciful. You provide sustenance indiscriminately (11:15).”

14:37 “Our Lord! I have settled some of my family in this barren, plant-less valley by your Sacred House. Our Lord! They are here to establish the Divine System. Give them the nobility of character so that the hearts of people incline toward them. Provide for them so that they may focus on their Mission and show gratitude by sharing Your heavenly and earthly blessings .”

14:38 “Our Lord! You know our intentions and proclamations. Nothing is hidden from Allah in the Low and High.”

14:39 “All Praise to Allah Who has given me sons like Ishmael and Isaac in later age! My Lord is indeed the Hearer of prayer.”

14:40 “My Lord! Enable me and my children to establish the Divine System. Our Sustainer! And (earnestly do I ask) accept the prayer.”

14:41 Our Lord! Grant the shelter of forgiveness to me, my parents, and the believers on the Day when the final reckoning comes to pass.” (9:114).

14:42 Deem not that Allah is unaware of what the wrongdoers are doing. He but gives them respite. They will stare in horror on the Day when all their deeds will reach their logical conclusion.

14:43 They will be on the run to and fro with their heads uplifted in tension as they stare at what they behold, and their hearts vacant of all hope.

14:44 Hence, warn mankind of the Day when this suffering may befall them, and every violator of the divine Commands will long for a little more respite, saying, "Our Lord! Give us a little time. We will obey Your Message and follow the Messengers.” The answer will be given, "Did you not use to swear before that there shall be no decline of status for you?"

14:45 “You dwelled in the homes and towns where people before you had dwelt and wronged themselves oppressing the weak. And you were made well aware of how Our Law of Requital dealt with them. And We gave you plenty of examples.”

14:46 Their schemes, all recorded with Allah, were strong enough to intimidate the strongest of resolves. But, since their schemes were pitched against the Divine Laws, they utterly failed.

14:47 So think not that Allah could ever fail to keep His Promise to His Messengers. Verily, Allah is Mighty, the Lord of just requital.

14:48 The Day will come when this earth will be replaced with a new earth, and the heavens also will be changed, and they will come forth unto Allah, the One, the Dominating. (And before that, as the caravan of humanity journeys forward, people will witness a total metamorphosis in their political and social systems, a brand new environment where the Universal Law of the One Mighty, Dominating God will prevail 9:31-33,18:48, 48:28, 61:9).

14:49 And even before the Day of Resurrection, the Divine System will be established on earth and the guilty will not be able to commit bloody crimes on earth, nor will they be able to steal the fruit of the toil of others. They will be effectively immobilized.

14:50 They will be drenched in the flames of their own igniting, feeling as if the coal tar is stuck on their whole existence.

14:51 Justice will be swift in the Divine Order, so that everyone is paid a quick recompense and peace remains undisturbed. Allah is Swift at reckoning.

14:52 This is a clear Message for all mankind in order that they may be warned thereby, and that they may know that He is only One God. Let those who are endowed with insight take this to heart. (Danger signs have been posted on the highway of life as the caravan of humanity moves along to the Noble goal of Peace. God is the Sustainer and Cherisher of all humanity and His Law is Supreme (1:1, 114:1). Men and women of understanding and discernment, and those of history, anthropology, philosophy, psychology, sociology, and those in positions of authority must pay heed to what their Lord is telling them 9:31-33, 14:48, 18:48, 48:28, 61:9).

## Surah 15 – Al-Hjir – The Valley of Rocks

[Author’s Note] This is the 15th Surah of the Qur’an. It has 99 verses. Al-Hijr implies "The Valley of Rocks". The Valley extends from Makkah to Syria, a distance of about 1,000 miles. The nations of Prophets Saleh and Shoaib inhabited here in their respective times. Prophet Lot was sent a bit north in the Valley, close to the Dead Sea. Rocky and desert grounds, the “stony hard” behavior of these three nations and the history of their annihilation through earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, perhaps gave the Valley its name. The ancient Greek philosopher, Ptolemy (Batlimus) mentioned the place as HEGRA.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

15:1 A.L.R. Allah, Aleem the Knower, Raziq the Provider. These are Messages of Revelation, of a discourse clear in itself and clearly showing the Truth. This is Qur’an, a plain reading and a Revelation that explains itself.

15:2 The time is coming when the rejecters of the Truth will ardently wish that they were Muslims.

15:3 Let them eat, drink, and enjoy life while hanging on to false hopes (47:12). They will come to know. (If they do not come to the Truth, the Truth will come to them, and they will see it 102:7).

15:4 And Our Law of Requital annihilated no community or township before the period of respite was over (13:38).

15:5 The Law of Respite has no exceptions. No nation can hasten or delay the consequence.

15:6 And yet, they who deny the Truth, say, “O You, unto whom this Reminder has been revealed, verily you are mad!”

15:7 “Why don't you bring angels to us if you are a man of truth?”

15:8 We do not send down the angels except when the period of respite is over. And in that case the rejecters get no further reprieve.

15:9 Behold, it is We Ourselves Who have sent down this Reminder, and behold, it is We Who shall truly guard it. (6:116).

15:10 And indeed (O Prophet) even before your time We sent Messengers to the communities.

15:11 And never came there a Messenger unto them but they did mock him.

15:12 Our Law turns the psyche of the guilty such that they ridicule reform since they are used to thriving on the fruit of others’ toil.

15:13 They believe not in the Message. Such has been the way of those who went before them.

15:14 And even if We opened to them a Gate into the Heaven, and they kept ascending through it,

15:15 They would say, "Our eyes are intoxicated. Nay, we are a folk bewitched."

15:16 We have set constellations in the Sky and We have beautified it for the beholders.

15:17 And We have guarded it from every destructive force.

15:18 (Allah is everywhere, not just in the skies. The Qur’an dispels all superstitions including the clairvoyants and fortunetellers spying onto His Court). The Shining Flame of Knowledge has now come to you to dispel the deceptive claims of every deceiver. (26:210-212, 37:8-9, 52:38, 67:5, 72:8-9).

15:19 And the earth, We have spread it out wide and compressed its Globe (39:5) and placed firm in it mountain ranges. And caused each seemly thing to grow in due proportion therein. (15:19-20, 31:10, 41:10, 79:28-30, 88:18-20).

15:20 And We have given you means of livelihood, as well as for all whose sustenance does not depend on you.

15:21 And there is not a thing but with Us are the treasures thereof. And We send it down but in precise measure.

15:22 And We send the winds as pollinators that fertilize plants, and cause water to come down from the height for you to drink. Who holds the stores of the Universe? You don't. (51:41).

15:23 For, it is We, We alone Who control the Laws of life and death, and it is We alone Who remain the Ultimate Inheritor. ( Hence, Our provision must remain accessible to all 56:63-74).

15:24 And, verily, We know those who passed on before you, and We know those who will come after you. (And We know those who advance in goodness and those who lag behind).

15:25 And, behold, it is your Lord Who will gather all of them together. Verily, He is Wise, all-Knowing.

15:26 And, indeed, We created man from sounding clay, out of dark inorganic matter. (37:11).

15:27 Before humanity became civilized, (you can say that) We created the caveman from flames, i.e. with fiery disposition in self-preservation.

15:28 Recall when your Sustainer said to the angels, "Behold, I am about to create a mortal man out of inorganic matter.” (2:30-35, 7:11-22, 17:61, 19:21, 20:116-120).

15:29 And when I have perfected him in due proportion and breathed into him something of My Energy, bow before him.” (That something will be the gift of free will, the ability to make decisions 76:3).

15:30 Thereupon the angels bowed, all of them together. (The physical Laws in the Universe were made subservient to mankind).

15:31 But Iblis (Satan). He refused to be among those who bowed. (The selfish desire of mankind declared rebellion against the higher control of Reason and Permanent Moral Values 2:34).

15:32 God asked, "O Iblis! Why are you not with those who bowed?"

15:33 He replied, "I am not one to bow to man whom You have created from sounding clay out of inorganic matter."

15:34 God said, "Go forth then, from here! You are dismissed forthwith.”

15:35 “My rejection shall be your due until the Day of Judgment." (7:14-15).

15:36 Said Iblis, "Then O My Sustainer! Grant me a respite till the Day when all shall be raised from the dead."

15:37 Answered He, "Verily, so be it. You shall be among those who are granted respite.”

15:38 “Till the Day known (to Me alone)”.

15:39 Now Iblis said, "O My Lord! Since You let me go astray, I verily shall make attractive the path of error for them in the earth. And I shall mislead them everyone.”

15:40 “Except those who are truly Your servants."

15:41 " This is, with Me, a Straight Path," said God.

15:42 “Verily, you shall have no power over My servants, except those who put themselves in error and follow you.”

15:43 “And for all such, behold, Hell is the promised abode.”

 

15:44 “With seven gates leading into it, each gate receiving its share of wrongdoers.” (The Straight Path is one, while the wrong paths are numerous and each of them leads to Hell 30:30-31).

15:45 Verily, those who walk aright, will find themselves amidst gardens and springs.

15:46 They will be told, “Enter them in peace, secure.”

15:47 And We shall remove from their hearts any sense of jealousy, rancor, rivalry and bitterness (7:43). And they shall rest as brothers and sisters, facing one another, on thrones of happiness. (56:15, 88:13).

15:48 No weariness shall ever touch them, and never shall they lose this abode of Bliss.

15:49 Tell My servants that I am Forgiving, Merciful.

15:50 Yet, My Law of Requital dispenses a severe requital.

15:51 As an example, tell them once again about Abraham's guests.

15:52 When they came unto him, and said, “Peace!” He said, "Behold, We are afraid of you."

15:53 Said they, "Fear not! Behold, we bring you the glad tiding of an enlightened son."

15:54 He said, "How can you give me such glad tiding even though I have been overtaken by old age?"

15:55 They answered, “We have given you the glad tiding that is bound to come true. So be not of those who abandon hope!”

15:56 Abraham exclaimed, "And who, other than the one in error, despairs of the Grace of his Lord?”

15:57 He added, “And afterward what is your mission O Messengers?"

15:58 They replied, "We are sent to a guilty people (for retribution).”

15:59 “Barring Lot’s household and followers. All of whom, behold, we shall save (as Commanded).

15:60 “Excepting his wife. Allah has decreed that she would stay behind (due to her disobedience).”

15:61 When the Messengers came to Lot's house,

15:62 He said, "Behold, you are people unknown."

15:63 They answered, "Nay, we bring to you the decision of what they keep disputing with you.”

15:64 “And we are bringing you the certainty (that the period of respite for your people is over). For, behold, we are indeed truthful.”

15:65 “Go, then, with your family and followers while it is yet night. Follow them in the rear, and let none of you look back (ever to come back to this place). But proceed where you are commanded (by your Lord 11:81).”

15:66 And We revealed to Lot this decree, “The last remnant of those shall be wiped out in the morning.”

15:67 (As this conversation was taking place), people of the town came rejoicing in anticipation. (They thought that these Messengers would make for them permissible what Lot had been declaring non-permissible).

15:68 Lot said, "Behold, these are my guests; so do not embarrass me.”

15:69 “Be mindful of Allah and disgrace me not!”

15:70 They answered, "Haven’t we forbidden you to entertain any kind of people (who are strangers)?”

15:71 Lot said, "Your wives, who are like my daughters, are better for you.”

15:72 The Messengers said to Lot, "They won't listen to you even if you preach them all your life." They were totally intoxicated, stumbling up and down.

15:73 The blast (of Our Requital) overtook them at the time of sunrise.

15:74 And We turned the towns upside down and showered upon them hard heated rocks.

15:75 Therein verily are lessons for those who read the signs.

15:76 And behold, those towns (Sodom and Gomorrah) stood by a road that still exists.

15:77 Verily, herein lies a message indeed for those who believe.

15:78 And the dwellers in woods (of Midyan, the people of Shoaib), were also wrongdoers.

15:79 And so Our just Law of Requital struck them. And, behold, these both communities lived by a highway, to this day plain to see.

15:80 And likewise indeed, the dwellers in Al-Hijr (Thamud of Saleh) denied Our Messengers.

15:81 And We gave them Our Messages, but they stubbornly turned away from them.

15:82 Even as they (with power given by Us) used to carve homes in the mountains for security.

15:83 And so the blast (of Our Requital) overtook them early in the morning.

15:84 And of no avail to them was all the power that they had acquired.

15:85 Remember, We have not created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, without Purpose. (Nations that do not fit themselves in the Divine Plan get wiped out. So shall happen to your people, (O Prophet), if they do not mend their ways). Behold, the Hour is surely coming (when you shall be victorious). So overlook their faults, and forgive them graciously. (73:10).

15:86 Verily, your Lord! He is the All Knowing Creator.

15:87 We have given you several examples from history that repeats itself, and We have given you this Sublime Qur'an that defines the Laws of the rise and fall of nations. (39:23).

[Most ancient and contemporary exponents have misunderstood this verse because of uncritical following of Bukhari. They maintain that the number seven "sab'an" here means the seven verses of the first Surah, Al-Fatihah which is so frequently recited. Obviously this interpretation is against the flowing context here and it reduces the glorious meaning to naught. Words like "sab'a" = seven and "bidh'a" = from three up to nine, in the Qur'an often denote several.]

15:88 So do not even look at the worldly possessions that We have given to different people (among the deniers) and grieve not that their luxuries keep them from seeing the Truth. But lower your wing of kindness to the believers. (15:94).

15:89 Say, "Behold, I am indeed he that warns openly and without ambiguity."

15:90 We did send down punishment upon the formulators of sects, after such warnings.

15:91 Now those who cause division and sectarianism after (this Revelation), will be seen as dismembering the Qur'an.

15:92 Them, by your Lord! We shall indeed call them to account, everyone and all.

15:93 For whatever they have done!

15:94 Hence, proclaim openly all that you have been commanded and disregard those who bring forth 'authorities' parallel to Him.

15:95 Verily, We shall suffice you against all who deride this Message,

15:96 And set up, side by side, parallel 'authorities.'

15:97 And well do We know that your heart is distressed by what they say.

15:98 But extol you your Sustainer. Strive in your Mission so that they see that the Giver of such magnificent Guidance is indeed Praiseworthy. Be you among the foremost to adore Him.

15:99 Submit entirely to your Sustainer so that you may have conviction in the success that is forthcoming.

**Surah 16 – An-Nahl – The Bee**

[Author’s Note] This is the 16th Surah of the Qur’an. It has 128 verses. An-Nahl signifies the Bee. The honeybee is a remarkable creature. It works hard through the processes of making honey and then turns up its labor for the common benefit of all. What a beautiful token of selflessness, and organized way of life!

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

16:1 Allah’s Command has come. Stop and think over these Messages and hasten not in comprehending the Qur’an. Glorified, Exalted He is, High above what people associate with Him.

16:2 He sends down His angels with Revelation of His Command, to such of His servants as He Wills. Saying, "Proclaim that there is no one worthy of obedience but Me, so be mindful of My Laws."

16:3 He has created the heavens and the earth with Purpose. He is High, Exalted above all that they associate with Him.

16:4 He created the human being out of male and female gametes. They should be humble before their Creator's Messages instead of being contentious.

16:5 And cattle He has created for you. From them you derive warmth, and numerous benefits, and from them you obtain food.

16:6 And you find beauty in them when you drive them home in the evenings and when you take them out to pasture in the mornings.

16:7 They carry your loads to places you could not reach without much hardship. Verily, your Lord is Compassionate, Merciful.

16:8 And He created horses, mules, and donkeys for you to ride and for joyful decor. And He will yet create things of which (today) you have no knowledge.

16:9 (You see that these animals serve you and follow their instinct.) Allah alone can show the Right Path, but there are ways that turn aside towards wrong. If Allah willed, He could have guided all of you. (He could have created you driven by your instinct without the ability to make choices).

16:10 He it is Who sends down water from the sky, from it you drink, and out of it grows the vegetation on which you feed your cattle.

16:11 Therewith He causes crops to grow for you, corn, olives, date palms, grapes, vineyards, and all kinds of fruit. This is indeed a convincing sign for those who reflect on the Universal order.

16:12 He has committed in your service the night and the day, as well as the sun and the moon, and the stars are committed by His Command. These are sufficient signs for people who use their intellect.

16:13 And all that He has created for you in the earth is of diverse colors and qualities. Therein is indeed a message for those who read the "Book of Nature".

16:14 And He it is Who has made the sea subservient. You eat from it tender fresh meat and take from it gems which you may wear. And on that very sea you see the ships roaming through the waves so that you might seek of His bounty and be appreciative.

16:15 And He has placed firm mountains on earth, lest it sway with you, and rivers and paths, so that you may find your way. (21:31, 31:10). (Mountains are the most vivid evidence of the geological history of the earth. With the earth's interior still being almost a molten fluid, the earth crust cooled off becoming hard and mountains came into being like pegs as the crest shrank 78:7).

16:16 And the natural landmarks as well as the stars to help people navigate.

16:17 Is the One Who creates comparable to anyone that cannot create? Will you then not reflect?

16:18 If you count Allah's Universal blessings, you cannot possibly reckon them. Allah is indeed Forgiving, Merciful. (His blessings encompass all Universe. He is the Absolver of imperfections. And He bestows means of physical and mental protection of humans as well as their individual and collective nourishment).

16:19 And Allah knows which of His blessings you keep hidden and which of them you bring into the open.

16:20 Those whom they invoke besides Allah create nothing and are themselves created.

16:21 (Powerless are the so-called saints, mystics and monks, whom you make holier and holier with the passage of time.) They are dead, disintegrated bodies, not living. They are not even aware when they will be raised. (And you still call upon them for help!)

16:22 Your God is One God. Those who call upon others are practical deniers of the life to come, since they ignore the tough accountability that awaits them. They are too proud to submit to the Supreme Authority.

16:23 (They deceive people with fancy words and contrived rituals but) Allah knows their intentions and actions, and what they hide and what they proclaim. Verily, He loves not the arrogant.

16:24 And when it is said to them, "What has your Lord revealed?" They say, "Fables of ancient times!" (When the Qur'an is presented to them, their clergy claim that its Verses apply not to them, but only to Jews and Christians and the idolaters of Arabia).

16:25 They shall bear their burdens undiminished on the Resurrection Day, with part of the burdens of those whom they misled without this revealed Knowledge. Ah, evil is what they bear!

16:26 Those who lived before them, had also plotted (against the Divine Laws) - whereupon Allah struck at the very foundations of all they had built and contrived. Such that the roof caved in upon them from above them. And the doom befell them from directions that they had perceived not.

16:27 On the Resurrection Day He will cover them with shame and say, “Where are My ‘partners’ for whose sake you opposed My Guidance?” Men and women blessed with knowledge will say, “ This Day, indeed, are the rejecters covered with shame and misery.”

16:28 Namely, those whose lives the angels take while they were doing wrong to their own “Self”. They finally would offer submission and say, “We did not mean to do wrong.” “Yes indeed! Allah is Knower of all you were doing!”

16:29 Therefore, enter the gates of Hell, to abide therein.” A miserable abode for those who do wrong and take pride in it.

16:30 And to those who walk aright, it is said, “What has your Lord sent down?” They say, “All that is good.” (The Qur’an impels people to do good to others). For those who do good to others in this world, is a goodly return here, and the home of the Hereafter will be better. Pleasant indeed will be the home of those who walk aright.

16:31 The Gardens of Eden they will enter, underneath which rivers flow, wherein they will have whatever they wish. This is how Allah rewards the upright.

16:32 (The upright are contented even as they depart from the world.) Angels cause them to die saying, “Peace unto you! Enter the Garden now because of what you used to do.”

16:33 (Whereas those who violate human rights, wrong their own “Self.”) Are they waiting for the angels to visit them, or that your Lord’s Command comes to pass (and calls them to Requital)? Similar has been the attitude of those before them. Allah wronged them not, but they wronged themselves.

16:34 All the evil that they had done fell back upon them, and the very thing they used to mock, surrounded them.

16:35 Now the idolaters say, “If Allah had so willed, we would not have worshiped or served anyone but Him, we and our forefathers. Nor had we forbidden things outside His Command.” Thus did those before them. But, are the Messengers responsible for other than conveying the Message clearly?

16:36 And verily, We have raised in every nation a Messenger, saying, “Serve Allah alone and shun false gods in any form.” Then Allah guided some of the people (since they adopted the right approach 4:88). And error took hold of others (who fell into arrogance or blind following 18:29). Do take lessons from history as you travel in the earth, and see the consequence of the deniers.

16:37 (O Messenger) In your compassion you desire everyone to have the right guidance, but Allah never intervenes to guide those who choose straying. And, such have no helpers.

16:38 They most strongly swear by Allah that He will not raise the dead. Nay, but it is a promise binding upon Him in truth, but most people do not make use of whatever they know.

16:39 He will then make them understand wherein they differ, and the rejecters will realize that they were liars.

16:40 Whenever We Will anything to be, We say unto it Our Word “Be” and it is. (The moment We pass a Decree in the World of Command, it goes into action).

16:41 Those who emigrate in the Cause of Allah because they were oppressed, We shall give them good lodging in the world, and surely the reward of the Hereafter is greater, if they knew.

16:42 They have been steadfast, and have put their trust in their Sustainer.

16:43 (O Prophet) Before you We sent none but men to whom We granted Revelation. (Tell the deniers), “If you do not know this, ask the followers of previous Revelations.”

16:44 With clear evidence of the Truth and Books of Divine Wisdom, We sent them. And now, (O Prophet) We have revealed this Reminder to you so that you convey to mankind what has been revealed for them. So that they may think.

16:45 Can they who devise evil schemes ever feel sure that Allah will not cause the earth to swallow them, or that suffering will not befall them in ways they could least anticipate? (Such people indeed are going down in their “Self” development).

16:46 Or that His Law of Requital will not take them to task suddenly in the midst of their comings and goings? Then there is no escape for them.

16:47 Or that His Law could cause such nations to decline slowly. (6:65, 7:182). And yet, your Lord is most Compassionate, Merciful. (He has ordained the Law of Respite for individuals and nations).

16:48 Have they not observed the things that Allah has created? Their shadows incline to the right and to the left; that is their utter submission to Allah, in all humility. (Even the shadows can show you that the entire Cosmos, with its celestial bodies, is submitting to His Laws).

16:49 Behold, before Allah, bows in submission all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth, whether living beings or the angels, for none are arrogant. ('All that is' includes three classes of Allah’s creation; inanimate things, living beings and angels. Angels, here, represent the Divine Laws in the Universe.)

16:50 They all fear their Lord, High above them, and they do all that they are commanded. (24:41).

16:51 And Allah has said, “Take not two Gods. There is only One God. So Me, only Me, shall you fear.” (21:19-21, 29:60-61, 43:84). (The One True God Who sustains all Universe, must be your God in your individual and collective lives. And there is no such thing as two powers in the Universe, one good and one evil, as the Zoroastrians believe).

16:52 Unto Him belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth. And His DEEN, the System is eternally followed in the Cosmos. Will you then fear deities that do not exist?

16:53 And whatever blessings you enjoy are from Allah, and when touched by distress, unto His Laws you turn for help.

16:54 Yet as soon as He relieves you from the distress, some of you fall back into associating others with their Lord.

16:55 As if to show their ingratitude to what We have given them. Enjoy yourselves while you may. Soon the reality will dawn upon you.

16:56 They set aside a portion of what We have provided them with, to those about whom they know nothing (idols, clergy, and the living or dead saints). By Allah! You will indeed be questioned concerning all that you fabricate.

16:57 They ascribe daughters to Allah. Glory be to Him! And to themselves they choose what they desire (sons).

16:58 So, whenever any of them is given the glad tiding of the birth of a daughter, his face darkens with sadness and anger.

16:59 Ashamed, he hides himself from people, because of the bad news given to him. He even asks himself, “Shall I keep the baby grudgingly, or bury her deep in the dust?” Oh, evil indeed is what they decide!

16:60 Those who disbelieve in the Hereafter, set up the worst examples in the human society. Whereas Allah’s Sublime Attributes enable you to set up excellent examples, for He alone is the Mighty, the Wise. (30:27).

16:61 If Allah were to punish mankind for their wrongdoing, He would not leave a single living creature upon the face of the earth (35:45). But, He grants them respite until a term according to His Law. But when the end of their term approaches, they can neither delay it by a single moment nor can they hasten it.

16:62 They ascribe to Allah what they dislike for themselves, and then utter the lie that the fair reward is for them. Surely, for them is the Fire, and they will be hastened on into it (56:10).

16:63 (They try to rationalize their desires.) By Allah! We verily sent Messengers to nations before you. But Satan, their selfish desire, made their actions fair-seeming to them. To this day he remains their patron friend, and they have incurred a painful doom.

16:64 And upon you (O Prophet) We have revealed this Book so that you may clearly explain to people the reality of those things in which they differ (and thus help them become one community). And this Book is a Guidance and Mercy for people who will believe.

16:65 (This Divine Writ has the power to revive the intellectually dead, and those who are going through a life unlived. The likeliness of the Qur’an is that) Allah sends down water from the sky, giving life thereby to the earth after it had been lifeless. Herein, behold, is a message for those who hear and listen.

16:66 And, behold, in the cattle too there is indeed a lesson for you. We give you to drink from their bellies, from between the refuse and the blood, pure milk pleasant to those who drink it. (23:21).

16:67 And of the fruits of the date-palm, and grapes, from which you make intoxicants, as well as wholesome sustenance. In this indeed is a message for those who use their sense.

16:68 And consider how your Lord inspired the bee, “Build for yourself dwellings in hills and in trees, and in what people may build.”

16:69 “And then eat of all kind of fruit, and follow the ways that your Sustainer has made easy for you.” (We endowed the bee with navigational skills). And then comes forth from their bellies a delicious drink of many hues, in which there is health for people. In all this, behold, there is a message for people who are willing to listen.

16:70 And Allah has created you, and in time will cause you to die. There are some among you whose lives are prolonged to an abject old age, ceasing to know what they once knew so well. (The time to do good deeds is when you are capable). Verily, Allah is all-Knowing, the Powerful Appointer of His Laws (22:5).

16:71 And Allah has caused some of you to excel in earning livelihood over the others (43:32). And yet, they who are more abundantly provided are often unwilling to share their provision with those who work for them, lest all might be equal in this respect (70:24, 30:28). Will they continue to deny Allah’s blessings in this manner? (16:53, 28:78, 39:49).

16:72 And Allah has given you mates of your own kind, and through your mates, has given you children and their children, and has provided for you decent sustenance of life. (Note that in your family, individuals earn according to their capacity and receive according to their needs). Will people, then, believe in false systems in the society and thus turn ungrateful to Allah’s blessings?

16:73 And they serve systems other than what Allah ordains. The man-made systems are powerless in that they can neither provide equitably, nor are they the custodians of the heavenly treasures. (15:21).

16:74 Therefore, compare none with Allah. Surely Allah knows and you do not know.

16:75 Allah gives you an example of two men; one of them is enslaved, unable to do anything of his own accord. And the other is a free man whom We have blessed with Our bounties, and he can spend of it on others secretly and openly. Can these two be deemed equal? Praise be to Allah! (So, praise Him by way of obedience). But the majority of humans do not understand that verbal thanks do not equal practical gratitude.

16:76. Allah gives you another example of two men. One of them is he whose faculties of speech and mind are totally disabled. He cannot do anything of his own accord and he is totally dependent on his care-provider, unable to bring forth any good in any way. Can such a one be considered equal of the man who is fit, enjoins justice and himself walks the Straight Path? (Allah expects you to use your faculties to the best of your abilities).

16:77 Unto Allah belongs the Unseen of the heavens and the earth, and the Hour is but as a twinkling of the eye, or even quicker. (And a speedy revolution can come to humanity). Surely, Allah has appointed due measure for all things and events.

16:78 Allah brought you forth from the bellies of your mothers when you knew nothing, and He gave you hearing, sight and intelligence so that you may give thanks. (You must give thanks by using your faculties to actualize your potentials).

16:79 Have they not considered the birds enabled to fly in mid-air, with none but Allah holding them aloft? (24:71). In this, behold, are messages for those who wish to attain conviction through reason.

16:80 Allah has made your homes the place for your rest. And the tent-houses that you make from the skins of animals. You find them light when you travel and when you camp. And of their wool, and their fur, and their hair, you make furnishings and comforts that serve you for a while.

16:81 Allah has provided you shades out of things He has created. He has granted you resorts in the mountains, garments to protect you from heat, and coats of armor to protect you from your own foolhardy violence. He bestows His Blessings in full measure so that may (think of His Power and Grace and) submit to His Authority.

16:82 If they still turn away, then your only duty to them (O Prophet) is the clear delivery of the Message. (16:84).

16:83 In fact, they recognize Allah's blessings, but deny them in practice. That is how most of the men and women are rated unbelievers. (16:71).

16:84 And bethink of the Day when We shall raise among every community a witness, then there is no leave for the rejecters, nor will they be allowed to make mends. (4:41, 16:77, 16:89, 41:24).

16:85 And when the wrongdoers will see the Requital coming, it will be too late. Neither will it be made light for them, nor will they be given further respite.

16:86 When those who ascribe partners to Allah see their 'partners' they will say, "Our Lord! These are our 'partners' whom we used to call instead of You." But, the leaders will fling to them the retort, "You verily have been lying to yourselves in self-deception."

16:87 And they will tender their submission to Allah on that Day, but all they used to fabricate will leave them in the lurch.

16:88 The ones who not only rejected the Truth, but hindered people from the Way of Allah, We will add doom upon doom for them because they corrupted the human minds and the society.

16:89 For, one Day, We shall raise from every community a leading witness against them from among themselves. And We shall call you (O Prophet) to testify regarding those whom your Message has reached. The Book We have revealed to you explains everything; a Guide and Grace and the glad tiding for all those who have submitted.

16:90 Verily, Allah enjoins (the Permanent Values in this Book that you):

- Uphold Justice.
- Benefit humanity.
- Give to your family, relatives (and fellow-men).
- Stay away from all that is shameful and immodest.
- Shun everything that runs counter to reason.
- Do not withhold your wealth and resources just for yourself.
- Guard yourself against envy.

- Do not create rebellion in the society. ('Fahasha', 'Munkar' and 'Baghii' include the last five meanings).

And He admonishes you repeatedly that you bear all this in mind.

16:91 Fulfill the Covenant with Allah when you have pledged to do so (1:4-5, 9:111). And do not break your oaths after you have confirmed them, for you have made Allah as the Guarantor over you. Verily, Allah knows all you do.

16:92 And be not like the knitting woman who spins yarn with tremendous hard work, and then breaks it apart. She wastes with her own hands a whole day's labor at the spinning wheel. (Breaking solemn pledges could nullify your good deeds). This is an example for you, if you abuse your promises to take advantage of others. People usually do that to advance from others wrongfully, or help their own groups (57:20). Allah has devised this as a test of your character. (Human beings are the only creatures who can make a pledge. Breaking promises violates human rights and hurts your own "Self"). On The Day of Resurrection you will appear before your Lord with the imprints of your doings on your "Self". He will then make you understand the dispute between your word and your action and between your reason and emotions.

16:93 Had Allah Willed, He could have made you all one community. But, He shows you the Right Path and gives you a free choice (and you will have to work for it 2:256, 18:29). And He has established the Laws for straying and guidance (4:88). You will surely be questioned about your actions.

16:94 Do not abuse the oaths among you. When you make pledges with people or sign treaties with other nations, be not deceitful. If you did that, you would be hindering people from the Path of Allah. And, you will lose the confidence of people and nations. Your feet will slip after being firmly planted and you will suffer a heavy punishment.

16:95 Do not trade your Covenant with Allah for petty gains. Verily, Allah possesses what is far better for you, if you but knew.

16:96. What you possess runs out, but that which He has (that you deposit with Him) lasts forever. We will give beautiful rewards (in both lives) to those who are steadfast in their pledges and in doing good deeds.

16:97 Whoever, whether male or female, does works that help others and is a believer, We shall certainly cause them to live a good life, and We shall grant them the rewards considering the best of their actions.

16:98 (Whenever you try to convey and implement the Message of the Qur'an, you will face stern opposition. This opposition will come from those who worship their selfish desire). Seek refuge with perseverance and confidence in the Laws of Allah.

16:99 This Satan (your selfish desire) has no power over those who truly believe and put their trust in their Lord.

16:100 Satan's power is only over those who befriend him. Such are Mushrikoon (idol worshipers) since they worship their own desire instead of God.

16:101 And now that We replace one Message by another, for Allah is fully Aware of what He reveals in stages, some people say, “You are an inventor.” (But, human civilization has evolved sufficiently to be given the perfect Divine System. This Qur’an will remain a watcher over previous Scriptures 5:48). But most of them do not know this fact.

16:102 Tell them, “The Sacred and Soothing Divine Energy has brought it down from your Lord in Absolute Truth (Gabriel 2:97, ‘Rooh, Rauh’ Soothing Mercy 12:87, Trustworthy 26:193). This Qur’an will keep firm in thought and action, those who accept it. And it will provide Guidance and the good news to all who submit to Allah.”

16:103 We know well what they say, “It is but a man teaching him!” The tongue of him they so maliciously point to is notably foreign, while this is Arabic, pure and clear.

16:104. How could people who are in the habit of making excuse, believe in the Verses of Allah? He won't force them into Guidance and they will prepare a painful punishment for themselves.

16:105 Those who are bent upon disbelieving Allah's Messages, Allah will not intervene to guide them, and grievous suffering will be their lot.

16:106 Any one who utters unbelief, after accepting faith in Allah, except under compulsion, his heart remaining firm in faith, is different from the one who is fully content with disbelief. The latter group invites Allah’s Requital, and theirs is an awful doom.

16:107 That is because they have chosen the life of this world only, ignoring the life to come. Allah does not intervene to guide the rejecters of the Truth.

16:108 Such are they whose hearts, ears and eyes Allah has sealed. Yet, they remain unaware. (Disuse of faculties brings people down to subhuman levels of existence 2:171, 7:179).

16:109 There is no doubt that such people will be great losers in the Hereafter as well.

16:110 But verily, your Lord; to those who leave their homes after trial and persecution, and then strive and patiently persevere, your Lord is oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

16:111 Beware of the Day when every human being will come to plead for himself alone. (There shall be no pleaders or intercessors), and they will be repaid exactly what they did. And no one shall be wronged.

16:112 Allah gives you an example. Think of a township that used to be secure and prosperous, with provision coming to it in plenty from all directions. But, they practically denied Allah's blessings by not sharing them with the needy. So Allah’s Law made it experience the garb of hunger and fear for their wrong system. (6:44).

16:113 A Messenger came to them from among themselves, but they denied him. And so the torment seized them since they used to wrong themselves by doing wrong to others.

16:114 So enjoy all the Lawful and decent things which Allah has provided for you. And be grateful for Allah’s bounty practically, if it is Him you truly serve.

16:115 He only prohibits for you the dead animal, blood, and swine-flesh and anything that has been dedicated to other than Allah. In a forced situation, provided one doesn't exceed the necessity, remember that Allah is Forgiving, Merciful. (6:144).

16:116 Do not keep uttering in falsehood, "This is lawful and this is unlawful", thus inventing lies against Allah. Those who fabricate lies against Allah, fail to prosper in their "Self".

16:117 A brief enjoyment, but grievous suffering in the long run!

16:118 To the Jews We had prohibited such things as We have mentioned to you before (6:147). We did them no wrong, but they were used to doing wrong to themselves (following their religious leadership instead of the Revelation).

16:119 And once again, behold! Your Lord shows Mercy to those who do evil out of ignorance but then come back to the right path and make mends. Verily, your Lord is Forgiving, Merciful.

16:120 Abraham was indeed a man who combined within himself all virtues, exemplary in his commitment to Allah, turning away from all that is false. (His impact on history was that of a whole nation). He upheld Strict Monotheism and never indulged in idolatry of any kind. (2:124-126, 14:35-37).

16:121 He was always practically grateful for the blessings granted by Him Who had elected him and guided him on to Straight Path.

16:122 We gave him good reward in the world. And in the Hereafter he shall be among those who fully developed their personalities (actualized their potentials).

16:123 We have revealed to you this Message (O Prophet), "Follow the creed of Abraham who turned away from all that is false." (2:125). He was not of the idolaters in any way.

16:124 And know that the observance of Sabbath was ordained for those who came to hold divergent views about him (about Abraham, since they thought that being his progeny spontaneously made them the chosen ones, and hence, they needed to be disciplined 2:65, 4:47, 4:154, 7:163). Your Lord will judge between them on the Resurrection Day regarding where they differed (from the way of Abraham).

16:125 Call to the Way of your Lord with wisdom and beautiful exhortation. Reason with them most decently. Your Lord is best Aware of him who strays from His Path, and He is best Aware of those who go aright.

16:126 Hence, if you have to respond to an attack in argument, respond only to the extent of the attack leveled against you. But to bear with patience is indeed far better for the steadfast.

16:127 Endure then, with patience, always remembering that it is none but Allah Who gives you the strength to endure (O Prophet). And grieve not over them, nor be distressed by the false arguments they devise.

16:128 For, verily, Allah is with those who walk aright, and are doers of good to others.

**Surah 17 – Al-Asra – The Night Journey**

[Author’s Note] This is the 17th Surah of the Qur’an. Some historians refer to it as Surah Bani Israel. It has 111 verses. ASRA (night journey) is often mixed up with MI'RAJ (Ascension). Since Allah is Omnipresent, the notion of anyone going to meet with Him over the skies does not stand up to reason. "ASRA" signifies night journey and it refers to the beginning of the exalted Messenger's emigration from Makkah to Madinah by night. Verses 20:77 and 26:52 use the same term for migration of Prophet Moses along with his followers across the sea. Also consider 17:2.

Masjid Al-Aqsa means, the Remote Mosque and refers to the ‘Remote Mosque’ in Madinah, the place where Muslims used to establish congregational prayer before the Prophet's arrival to the city.

The famous Masjid Al-Aqsa (the so-called Qiblah Awwal, or the supposed First Holy Sanctuary, also widely known as Haram Sharif) in Jerusalem was, in fact, built in 72 A.H. (691 C.E.) by the Umayyad Ruler, Abdul Malik bin Marwan, about 60 years after the exalted Messenger passed on.

Jerusalem, until the Muslim conquest under the second Caliph of Islam in 637 C.E., had been under the control of the Byzantine Christians for centuries, and there was no person worshiping in a Masjid anywhere in the world but Madinah.

Hence, the question of the presence of a Masjid in Jerusalem during the life times of the exalted Prophet should not arise.

Muslims conquered Jerusalem in 637 C.E. during the Rule of the second Caliph of Islam, Hazrat Umar. And when he visited the place, he continued to pray in open grounds, although Pope Severinus gave him the Key to the city and invited him to pray in the Church of Holy Sepulture. But Hazrat Umar feared that Muslims might start converting churches into Masjids, so he politely declined. If a Masjid were present he would have prayed there.

The word 'Mi'raj' (Bodily Ascension of any human being) nowhere occurs in the Qur’an. Yet, under erroneous traditions it is a popular, though non-Qur’anic, belief among Muslims that the exalted Messenger was taken up physically unto the heavens to meet with Allah!

The Qur’an as usual sets the records straight by asserting that the First ever Holy Sanctuary was the Ka’bah built by Prophets Abraham and Ishmael in Makkah. And, that the Divine Laws are unchangeable under all circumstances. Bodily Ascension is a Biblical, and not a Qur’anic theme at all.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

17:1 Glorious is He Who initiated the migration by night of His servant from the Sacred Masjid to the Remote Masjid whose environs We did bless that We might show him of Our Signs (20:23). (That the Divine System will begin to prevail from therein). Verily, He is the Hearer, the Seer.

17:2 (Recall that Moses had to migrate from Pharaoh's Kingdom to the Sinai Peninsula.) We gave Moses the Scripture and We appointed it a Guide to the Children of Israel, saying, “Choose no guardian besides Me.”

17:3 They were the descendants of those whom We carried in the ship along with Noah. Behold, he was a most grateful servant of Ours.

17:4 We had informed the Children of Israel in the Scripture, "Verily, you will work corruption in the earth twice, and show great arrogance and tyranny."

17:5 When the first of the warnings came to pass, We sent against you Our servants of great might (armies of Nimrod Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon) who ravaged your country as a warning fulfilled (and took you to Babylon as slaves in 586 B.C.).

17:6 Then, We granted you victory over them (when King Cyrus of Persia defeated the Babylonians and brought you back to your country in 520 B.C.). We then, helped you with wealth and children and made you numerous in soldiery.

17:7 We made it clear, "If you (keep the Commandments and) do collective good, you will be doing good to yourselves. And if you do evil, you will hurt yourselves. (You did not heed these warnings), and then the second warning came to pass. (The Roman General Titus invaded Jerusalem in 70 C.E.). His armies entered the Temple and destroyed everything they conquered completely, just as the Babylonians had done before.

17:8 Now is the time that your Lord may Bless you with His Mercy (as the Final Messenger is in your midst 7:157). If you repeat your transgressions, We will counter with retribution. We have made Hell a prison for opponents of the Divine Order.

17:9 Verily, this Qur'an guides to what is most Upright, and gives good news of a great reward to those who accept it and do works of social welfare.

17:10 And that for those who disbelieve in the life to come, We have readied grievous suffering.

17:11 Man asks for what is evil for him as he prays for the good. Man is prone to be hasty in judgment.

17:12 (Right and Wrong have been made distinct as day and night.) We have appointed the Night and the Day as two of Our Signs. The Sign of the Night We have made darkness (of ignorance) while the Sign of the Day we have made brightness (of Guidance). You shall seek the Bounty from your Lord, and be aware of the passing years and make your calendars. (6:97, 10:5). (Reckon every day, month and year to see what you have gained and what you have lost in your self-development). We have given you much detail in this brief statement.

17:13 All deeds of the humans are instantly recorded on their "Self", as if the record book is fastened to their own necks. And We shall bring forth this record book wide open to them on the Day of Resurrection.

17:14 "Read your book! You are a sufficient auditor for yourself this Day."

17:15 So, whoever goes right, does it for his own "Self", and whoever strays, strays against his own "Self". No person bears the load of another. And We never punish any people until We have sent a Messenger. (The Eternal Messenger now is the Book of Allah).

17:16 (Here is the Divine Law of Requital for nations.) We let the leaders of a nation commit corruption, drift out of discipline and consider themselves above Law. Then Our Law annihilates them completely. (And the leaders and the public are left blaming one another 7:38, 10:28, 14:21, 16:86).

17:17 How many generations has Our Law annihilated since Noah! Allah suffices as the Knower and Beholder of what causes His servants to trail behind.

17:18 Those who fall for quick gains of life that hastens away, (disregarding the Eternal Values and the Hereafter), We hasten for them according to Our Laws indiscriminately. (But, since they have not invested in the Hereafter) We have appointed for them Hell; they will endure its heat, disgraced, rejected. (2:200, 11:15-16).

17:19 And the one who keeps the life to come in view and strives for it as best as he can, provided he is a true believer; the endeavor of every such person will be accepted. (2:201).

17:20 All, these as well as those, We bestow on them some of your Lord’s gifts since your Lord’s giving is not confined. (42:20).

17:21 Behold how We bestow more bounty on some of them than others. But the life to come will be far higher in degree and far greater in bounty.

17:22 Do not set up gods besides Allah. If you run man-made systems, disregarding the Divine Values, you will face an embarrassing failure.

17:23 (A benevolent society begins at home.) Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and always be kind to your parents. If one of them or both attain old age, do not utter the slightest harsh word to them. Never repel them and always address them respectfully. (36:68).

17:24 Lower for them the wing of kindness and humility and say, "My Lord! Bestow upon them Your Mercy as they raised me since I was little."

17:25 Your Lord is best Aware of your psyche. If you fulfill the needs of others, you grow your own personality. If you turn to His Laws, He will protect your "Self" from deterioration. (Ghufarah = Helmet and armor).

17:26 And give your relative his or her Divine right, and give to those whose running businesses have stalled, who have lost their jobs, the needy wayfarer, the homeless, and the one who reaches you in a state of destitution. (For this nobility you will have to guard yourself against squandering your wealth). Do not squander your wealth senselessly. (2:261).

17:27 Squanderers are close companions of Satan, their selfish desire. And your Satan is ever ungrateful to his Lord.

17:28 If you are waiting for affluence from your Lord, and are unable to currently help the needy, then speak to them in kindness, and treat them in the nicest manner.

17:29 You should not keep your hand chained to your neck in stinginess, nor open it foolishly lest you sit down destitute and denuded.

17:30 (Make decent effort to earn your provision.) Your Lord has appointed Laws for affluence and poverty in societies. (In the Divine System every individual will get generous return for his toil 53:39). Verily, He is fully Cognizant, Seer of His servants.

17:31 Kill not your children (nor deprive them of good rearing) for fear of poverty. We it is Who provide for them as well as for you. (The Divine System will take responsibility of all your needs 9:111, 20:118). Verily, killing them (or depriving them of proper education and training) is a grave offense.

17:32 Do not come close to adultery, for, it is an abomination and an evil way.

17:33 You shall not kill any person, for Allah has made all life sacred, except in the course of justice through an appropriate court. In case of unjust killing, We have given rights to the victim's family. With that right of retribution, comes the responsibility that since the law is helping them, they must not exceed the limits. (2:178, 5:32, 6:152, 42:40).

17:34 Go not near the wealth of the orphan, except for his or her own good, until they come of age. (Then let them make their own decisions). This is a covenant that you must fulfill. Surely, you will be questioned about all your covenants.

17:35 (Always be mindful of just dealings.) Give full measure when you measure, and weigh with even scale. This is the best way and will prove to be best in the end. (81:1-3).

17:36 And you shall not follow blindly any information of which you have no direct knowledge. (Using your faculties of perception and conception) you must verify it for yourself. In the Court of your Lord, you will be held accountable for your hearing, sight, and the faculty of reasoning. (And so, the insane and the disabled will have their incapacities taken into account in a court of law.)

17:37 Walk not on earth with pride. Neither would you bore through the earth, nor would you become as tall as the mountains. (Know, that your body language speaks louder than words 3:187, 31:19, 40:75).

17:38 The evil of all this is detestable in the Sight of your Lord.

17:39 This is some of the Wisdom your Lord has revealed to you. Do not set up with Allah any other god, lest you be cast into Hell blameworthy rejected. (Accept no Authority worthy of obedience in lieu of Allah 2:269).

17:40 What! Has your Lord distinguished you by giving you sons, and chosen for Himself daughters in the guise of angels? (16:57). Verily you speak a monstrous word!

17:41 We have explained things in various ways in this Qur'an so that people understand. But Our Law of Guidance is unwavering (4:88). The ones with preconceived denial will only increase in their flight from the Truth.

17:42 Say, "If there were any other deities side by side with Him, as they claim, even those would have to find a way unto the Lord of the Throne of Almightiness."

17:43 Glorified is He, and High Exalted above what they say!

17:44 All the seven Highs and their Lows, and all beings in them are working His Plan, displaying that He is Praiseworthy. All creatures are playing their role in the Universe. In your present state of knowledge, you do not understand their exact modes of action. Allah, the Clement, the Absolver of imperfections, sustains and maintains them in Order.

17:45 The prejudiced among them approach you with a closed mind when you convey the Qur'an to them (17:41). Since they believe not in the life to come, they are preoccupied with immediate gains only. And their attitude causes Our Law to create a hidden (psychological) barrier between you and them. (Many people would rather embark upon a journey without a road map).

17:46 It is Allah's Law that people who do not use their faculties, lose them. Their minds, hearts, and ears act impermeable when you mention your Lord alone in the Qur'an. And, they turn their backs in disgust. (They wish to hear about other deities and false 'authorities').

17:47 We are best Aware of what they wish to hear when they listen to you. Then they hold secret meetings and these wrongdoers say, "You only follow a man who is under the influence of magic." (It is unfortunate that under the influence of fabricated traditions, most of the Muslims even today believe that a Jewish magician successfully cast a spell of 'magic' on the exalted Prophet! Such traditions and ahadith that clash with the Qur'an, were obviously contrived by non-Muslims in the guise of 'Imams').

17:48 See how (cunning) examples they make up about you (O Prophet)! They are going astray to the point of no return.

17:49 And they say, "After we are bones and fragments, shall we be raised up as a new creation?"

17:50 Say, "Even if you turn into rocks or iron!"

17:51 "Or fossilize into forms as far away from life as you can imagine, you shall be raised up." Then they might say, "Who shall bring us back to life?" Tell them, "He Who initiated you in the first place." They will then shake their heads and say, "When will that be?" Say, "It may be sooner than you think!"

17:52 A Day when He will call you, you will be spellbound with His Glory. Then you will think that you lived in this world only a short while.

17:53 (They must do good in this short life-span, so) Tell My servants to speak to one another in a kind manner and treat one another nicely. Verily, Satan, their selfishness, creates discord among them. For, verily, Satan is man's open foe.

17:54 Your Lord is best Aware of you (what you are, what you do and what you deserve). He will bestow His Grace upon you and He will chastise you according to His Laws. We have not sent you (O Prophet) as a warden over them.

17:55 And your Lord is best Aware of all beings who are in the Highs and the Lows. (In this, Our Infinite Knowledge, did We send Our Messengers). But, indeed, We caused some Prophets to excel the others, however, you should understand that they were all one in Purpose, so make no distinction among them on that account (2:62, 2:136, 2:253). (You O Prophet, are given the Perfected Eternal Message). To David We gave a Book of Wisdom, (the Psalms, as well as a kingdom that was matchless in its times 21:79, 34:10, 38:19-20).

17:56 (All these prophets taught that there is only One True God.) Say, "Call unto those saints, angels, idols, whom you consider gods besides Him. They have no power to rid you of any troubles, nor can they divert them."

17:57 Even the believing sages whom they call upon, are themselves striving to obtain their Lord's favor and closeness. They hope for His Grace, and fear His Requital. Verily, your Lord's Requital is something to beware of!

17:58 There is no nation that upholds a wrong system, and yet survives the Law of Requital. This Law will be effective until the Day of Resurrection, and is well-recorded in the Divine Database.

17:59 Nothing has changed Our Plan to send down this Final Revelation, even though the previous nations have often denied or distorted Our Verses. The most blatant example is of Thamud who violated the clear sign of their submission, and failed the crucial test by killing the she-camel. (7:73, 11:89, 26:141, 27:45). We continued to send Messages for mankind to establish the Order in which peace would replace fear.

17:60 And, We said to you (O Prophet), "Behold, your Lord encompasses all mankind, so We have given you the Vision." (Through this Final Message, We have given you the VISION that they shall all become One Community again). Those who hinder this Plan will end up eating the bitter and pungent Tree of Division that is mentioned in the Qur'an (7:19, 14:26, 15:39, 17:60, 37:65, 38:82, 44:44) . This Vision and the Tree of Division shall be a test for them. Now We have conveyed a warning to them, yet, for a time it shall increase them in great rebellion. (But mankind shall win their lost Paradise 2:35).

17:61 (Refresh the story of your common origin and the challenge facing humanity since day one.) We made Angels, the Divine Laws in the Universe, subservient to Adam, the mankind. It was Iblis, their selfish desire that refused to submit. He said, "Shall I bow before that whom You have created from inorganic matter (and thus charged him with material temptations)?" (2:30-39, 7:11-14, 15:27-41).

17:62 He said, "Since You have honored him above me, grant me respite until the Day of Resurrection, and I will put reins through the noses of his children and pull them wherever I please. Only a few will withstand my temptation."

17:63 God said, "Go! But whoever of them follows you, Hell will be the reward for all of you, an ample recompense."

17:64 "Tempt and allure them with your voice such of them as you can (through the media and show biz, and propaganda against the Truth.) You may prompt them into armed conflicts, and entice them with monetary help, business partnerships and ready loans. You may misguide the children with detrimental educational programs, and counter-productive recreation. And hold out promises to them." Whatever Satan promises them is but meant to deceive their minds.

17:65 "Behold, you shall have no power over My faithful servants. And your Lord suffices as their Guardian." (15:40-42).

17:66 (O Mankind, be mindful of your Lord to ward of your selfish desire). Your Sustainer is He Who causes the ships to move onward for you through the sea that you may seek of His bounty. Verily, He is Most Gracious towards you.

17:67 (You hardly think that His Laws are changeless and, therefore, trustworthy.) When harm touches you on the sea, those you call upon besides Him, leave you in the lurch! (You try to save the ship according to Our Laws and forget superstitions). But when He brings you safely ashore, you turn aside and forget Him. The fact is, that the unguided human is ever ungrateful.

17:68 (You forget that His Laws apply to land as they do to the entire Universe.) Can you then, ever feel sure that He will not cause the dry land to engulf you, or let loose upon you a deadly storm, whereupon you find none to be your protector?

17:69 Or can you feel sure that He will not return you to that plight a second time, and then let loose upon you a raging tempest and cause you to drown in requital for your ingratitude? And then, you will find none to help you against Our Laws. (Life is too short and too unpredictable to postpone for tomorrow the good you can do today).

17:70 Now indeed, We have conferred dignity on the children of Adam (as a birth right, regardless of where the child is born). And provided them with transport on land and sea and given them decent things of life. And We have favored the humans far above a great many of Our creation.

17:71 But one Day We shall summon all human beings with their records. One who is given his record in the right hand will read it in jubilation. This will be a symbol of success for them, and they will receive their rewards without the least reduction.

17:72 Whoever is blind of heart here will be blind in the life to come as well, and yet further astray (from Divine Grace). (Individuals and nations who are blind of reason live in misery in this world, and no amount of wishful thinking will take them to Paradise).

17:73 And, behold, they endeavor to tempt you away (O Prophet) from what We reveal to you (and make compromises in return for accepting you as the King of Arabia and a Prophet) if you invented something of their liking (like authorizing the worship of their false deities or taking back the equality of humans) in Our Name. (17:46).

7:74 Their pressure was so intense that, without firm Conviction that brings Our support, you might have inclined toward them a little. (10:15, 11:113, 68:9).

17:75 Had you inclined toward them, We would have doubled the retribution for you in this life and after death, and you would have found no one to help you against Our Law of Requital.

17:76 Since they saw that they could not persuade you, they wished to drive you out (of Madinah as well.) If they had done that, (they would have lost the stabilizing force of your presence), and would have annihilated one another in a short while.

17:77 Such has always been Our Law with all of Our Messengers, We sent before you. (Nations that drove them out, suffered dire consequences). You will never find a change in Our Laws.

17:78 You shall strive in the Divine Cause from morning to night. The Qur’an upsprings the Light for you to witness your objective and your way. Its likeness is the Dawn that brings light after a dark night. (42:38).

17:79 As head of the state you shall even contemplate and work part of the night. This is the extra endeavor for you. (And your companions shall join you in this endeavor as needed 73:2-3). Soon, your Lord will raise you to a Glorious Station.

17:80. Say, “My Lord! Admit me in honor and let me depart in honor at every juncture of my life, and help me with strong support.”

17:81 (Time has come for you to) say, "The Truth has come to light, and falsehood has withered away. For, behold, all falsehood is bound to wither away."

17:82 Thus, step by step, We have sent down in the Qur’an the cure of all ills of humanity. It is a Mercy for those who accept it. At the same time, it is a harbinger of loss for the oppressors, since it liberates the oppressed from their grasp.

17:83 People without higher objectives easily exult and turn away when Our Laws make life pleasant for them. And they quickly despair when a hardship touches them. (41:51).

17:84 Say, "Everyone acts in a manner peculiar to himself. (Human beings tend to make their own rules of conduct), but your Lord is best Aware as to who has chosen the best path.

17:85 (O Messenger) They ask you about the (Spirit, the Soul), the Revelation. Tell them, “Revelation is from your Lord's World of Command, of which you have been given little knowledge.” The Spirit is the Divine Energy, something from which has been given to humans in the form of free will. The Soul is your "Self".

17:86 (Revelation from Us is the extrinsic knowledge, as distinct from intrinsic inspiration. To make it more clear) if We so Willed, We could withdraw what We reveal to you, and you would find none to plead in your behalf before Us.

17:87 The Revelation is a Grace from your Lord to you (and for all humanity.) Indeed, His Favor unto you (O Messenger) is great indeed! (6:116, 15:19, 87:6-7).

17:88 Say, “If all mankind, in towns and villages of the world, get together to produce a Qur’an like this, they will utterly fail, however strength they exert in aiding one another." (2:23, 10:38, 11:13).

17:89 We have used TASREEF to explain The Qur’an in many facets for mankind. However, most people (due to arrogance, prejudice or blind following) remain ungrateful by rejecting such Clear Guidance. (17:41).

17:90 (Instead of reflecting on it, they keep demanding physical miracles) saying, “We will not believe in you until you cause a spring to gush forth from the earth.”

17:91 "Or you have a garden of date palms and grapes vines and cause rivers to gush forth in their midst."

17:92 "Or you make the sky fall on us, as you keep warning us about retribution, or bring Allah and the angels face to before us." (26:187, 6:35)).

17:93 "Or you should have a house of gold. Or you ascend to the sky. But, nay, we will not believe your ascension unless you bring a written book that we can read." Tell them, "Glory be to my Lord! Am I more than a mortal man, a Messenger?"

17:94 Yet whenever Guidance came to people, nothing has ever kept them from believing as much as this objection, "Would Allah send a mortal man as His Messenger?"

17:95 Say, "If angels walked about and dwelled in the earth, We would have sent an angel from the heaven as Messenger." (43:60).

17:96 Tell them, "Allah suffices as witness between me and you. Verily, fully Aware He is of His servants." (The outcome according to His Law will prove who is right).

17:97 The rightly guided is the one who follows Allah's Guidance. Anyone who quits His Way, has gone astray. You will not find any protectors for them outside His Laws. On the Day of Resurrection, We will gather them together prone upon their faces; blind, dumb, and deaf. (That is how they lived their life). Hell is their abode, and every time its flames abate, We shall increase for them its blazing flame.

17:98 Such is their reward because they preemptively rejected Our Messages. And for having said, "When we are bones and fragments, shall we be raised from the dead as a new creation?"

17:99 Do they not realize that Allah Who created the heavens and the earth, is Able to create them anew in their own likeness again? He has appointed an irrevocable time to end the worldly life (and of Resurrection). Only those remain submerged in the darkness of ignorance who are bent upon doing wrong to their own "Self" (and thus remain ungrateful for the Benevolent Guidance).

17:100 Say, "If you owned the treasure-houses of my Lord's Bounty, you would try to hold on to them tightly for fear of spending too much. For, man has ever been self-serving."

17:101 (We have been sending Prophets for the reformation of this mentality.) Indeed We gave unto Moses nine clear Messages. Ask then, the Children of Israel what happened when he came unto them and Pharaoh said to him, "Verily, O Moses! I think you are bewitched." (7:133, 27:12).

17:102 Answered Moses, "You know well that no one but the Lord of the heavens and the earth has revealed these eye-opening Messages and, verily, O Pharaoh! I think that you are utterly lost."

17:103 Pharaoh resolved to wipe off Moses and his followers from the face of the earth. But We drowned him and those with him, all together.

17:104 After that We said to the Children of Israel, "Dwell now securely in the earth but remember that when the last promise comes to pass, We shall bring you as a crowd gathered out of various nations." (The first two Promises 17:5, 17:7. 7:157).

17:105 Truthfully, We have sent it down, and with the Truth it has come down (to you O Prophet). For, We have sent you (O Prophet) as a herald of glad tidings and a Warner. 17:106 With the Qur'an which We have gradually unfolded, so that you might convey it to mankind by stages. Behold, We have sent it down step by step, as one Revelation.

17:107 Say, "Believe in it or do not believe." Those who have been endowed with innate knowledge and make use of it, recognize its glory and fall down upon their faces in prostration as soon as it is conveyed to them."

17:108 They say, "Glory be to our Lord. Verily, the Promise of our Lord has been fulfilled."

17:109 And so they fall down on their chins, weeping, and increasing in humility.

17:110 Say, "Call Him Allah, or call Him Rahman, the Beneficent; to Him belong the best names. By whichever name you call Him, His are all the best attributes of perfection. And be not too loud in your call to the Divine System, nor speak in too low a voice, but follow a way in between.

17:111 And say, "All Praise is due to Allah Who begets not an offspring, and has no partner in His Dominion, and has absolutely no weakness, hence no need of any aid." And so, extol His limitless Greatness. (Establish His Greatness in the Earth with all magnificence, as it is in the entire Universe). (9:33, 74:3).

## Surah 18 – Al-Kahf – The Cave

[Author's Note] This is the 18th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 110 verses. The Surah derives its name from the Cave in which some young men (probably seven of them) had taken shelter against persecution by the Roman Emperor Decius (who ruled between 249-251 C.E.).

Decius (Daqianoos) being a pagan was known for his persecution of the Unitarian Monotheistic Christians. They were true Unitarian followers of Jesus Christ, and they took refuge outside the town of Ephesus (Afsoos) in today's Turkey. The 19th Century Archaeology has uncovered the ruins of the town just South of Izmir.

Dwellers of the Cave, known as 'The Seven Sleepers' in history, have also been referred in this Surah as the owners of Ar-Raqeem. From "Raqam" meaning inscribing - Inscription. I understand that they held on to the Scripture, the Gospel of Jesus. The dogmas of Trinity, Blood Atonement, Divinity and Sonship of Jesus were canonized about 75 years after Decius at the Conference of Nicea under Emperor Constantine in 325 C.E. Hence, the Gospel that these young men held on to was much closer to the real teachings of Jesus. They were vanguards of Truth, and not ascetics withdrawing from the responsibilities of the worldly life.

AL-KAHF is one of the most commonly misinterpreted Surahs of the Qur'an because of contradictory historical accounts, questionable Ahadith and the Biblical influence on the minds of many commentators. The Qur'an, as always, sifts out fabrications and embraces the Truth.

TASREEF and some relevant history are mandatory to best understand this Surah.

The Surah also gives us an important lesson that true revolutions begin in the hearts and violent revolutions create only corruption, disorder and bloodshed in the land.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

18:1 All beauty and balance in the Universe is the living evidence that Allah is Praiseworthy. Praise be to Allah who has revealed this Book to His servant, and made it flawless.

18:2 A Perfect Book, unerringly straight, meant to warn people of the destructive results of their wrongdoings. And to give good news to those who believe in the Message and make reforms in their individual and collective lives, that theirs shall be a generous Reward.

18:3 A state of Bliss in which they shall dwell beyond the count of time.

18:4 Furthermore, this Divine Writ is meant to warn all those who say, “God has taken unto Himself a son.”

18:5 No knowledge whatsoever have they of Him, and neither did their forefathers. An outrageous statement it is that comes out of their mouths, and nothing but falsehood do they utter!

18:6 (O Messenger) Should you (in your compassion) grieve yourself to death if they are not willing to believe in this Message?

18:7 (We never ordained asceticism for mankind. It was something they invented 57:27). Behold, We have Willed the earth to be pleasingly decorated. We make it a test for people to see for themselves as to which of them lives a balanced life. (18:30-31, 18:46, 67:2).

18:8 And, verily, We shall reduce all that is on earth to barren dust!

18:9 Do you think that the Dwellers of the Cave, the Upholders of Raqeem (the Inscribed Gospel) (were some supernatural beings) more wondrous than Our other signs? (Nay, strange legends became famous about them).

18:10 As they fled for refuge to the Cave (outside Ephesus), they prayed, “Our Lord! Bestow on us Grace from Yourself and endow us with insight into the right (and wrong) of all situations.

18:11 And thereupon We veiled their ears in the Cave for some years.

(They remained isolated, hiding from the soldiers of Emperor Decius during his reign, 249-251 C.E.).

18:12 And then We caused them to rise (out of the Cave). We let them know for themselves which of the two groups, (the young men with their friends in town, or their opponents), had better availed the time.

(The Dwellers of the Cave had maintained secret communication with like-minded people in Ephesus).

18:13 And now (contrary to hearsay) We shall relate to you (O Prophet) their true history. Behold, they were young men who truly believed in their Lord and We increased them in guidance.

18:14 We strengthened their hearts, and they took a firm stand. They said to one another, “Our only Lord is the Sustainer of the heavens and the earth. Never shall we submit to any 'authority' other than Him. If we did or even uttered such wrong, we would be splitting our own personalities.”

18:15 “The people of our nation are obeying false authorities instead of Him, without any clear evidence to support their behavior. And who does greater wrong than he who invents a lie about God?”

18:16 The young men conferred (with their friends, and among themselves), “Hence, now that you have withdrawn from them and all their submission instead of God, then seek refuge in the Cave. God will shower you with His Grace, and will set your affairs towards ease.”

18:17 And you might have seen the sun rising on the right side of the Cave, and set, aside from them, on the left while they lived on in that spacious chamber. (The Cave lay North South and while it was roomy from inside its entrance was small). It is a sign of Allah that (He arranged for them excellent camouflage and) whom Allah guides is the rightly guided, and whom He lets go astray for violating the Divine Laws of guidance, for such, you will find no protector who would point out the right way.

18:18 You would have deemed that they were awake, even when they slept. (They remained alert round the clock). We caused them to frequently change their positions right and left. They had a faithful dog to guard the entrance, with its four paws outstretched, ready to hunt for them. The whole environment was awe-inspiring. Had you come upon them suddenly, you would have turned away from them in flight in awe.

18:19 And so, when We caused them to rise (out of the Cave), they began to ask one another (about the next step). One of them asked, “How long have you been here?” “We have been here a day or part of a day!” they answered. Finally they said, “Your Lord knows best how long. (They were so committed to their mission that they hardly noticed how the days and nights went by). Let one of you go with these silver coins to the town, and look for the best available food, and bring you some provisions. But let him exercise caution, and by no means make anyone aware of you.”

18:20 “For, behold, if they discover you, they will stone you to death or force you to revert to their religion, then you will never succeed.”

18:21 And in this way We caused them to be discovered (their mission had succeeded), and everyone realized that Allah's Promise is always true. There remained no doubt about the Revolution. (The Dwellers of the Cave were revered by their nation as the Divine Order was restored. Time went by and they passed on. The reverence of the people took a turn). Some people said, "Erect a building in their memory. God knows best their true stature.” Others, whose opinion prevailed, said, “Indeed, we must raise a house of worship in their memory.” The building in which they would submit to the One True God, like a Masjid. (But they converted the building into a monastery and placed huge tombstones with superstitious inscriptions, another RAQEEM but man-made. The sanctuary became a haven for nuns and monks).

18:22 Then, some would say they were three, and their dog was the fourth, and some would say five, and their dog the sixth. They only made wild guesses, and some of them said that they were seven and their dog was the eighth. Say, "My Lord is best Aware of their number.” There are some who know* their right number but, argue not about them but a passing comment. You need not consult anyone about them (to avoid undue controversies).

[*The last statement that they were seven and their dog was the eighth, is not denied by the Qur’an. Those who get this point probably know their number].

18:23 (This is the news of the Unseen. Like, the next day is unseen for you.) Never say about anything, “Behold I will do it tomorrow.” (Things may happen beyond one’s control later).

18:24 Add to your statement, “If my promise is not contrary to the Divine Physical Laws.” And remember your Lord if you forget your promise. Say, "I hope that my Lord will guide me even closer to the right course.”

18:25 And it is said they lived in the Cave for three hundred years”. Others say, “Nay, add nine to that number.”

18:26 Say, “Allah knows best how long they remained there.” His alone is the knowledge of the hidden reality of the heavens and the earth. How well does He see and hear! They have no guardian apart from Him and He allots no one a share in His Rule!

18:27 (O Messenger) Convey to the world whatever and whenever of this Book is revealed to you from your Lord. (6:19). There is none that can alter His Words. And His Laws in Theory (Kalimatillah), and His Laws in Practice as implemented in the Universe (Sunnatillah), never change 6:34, 6:116, 10:64, 17:77, 18:27, 33:38, 33:62, 40:85 48:23). Tell them that you can find no refuge outside His Laws.

18:28 (There is a lesson of perseverance for you in the history of the Dwellers of the Cave). Hold fast to the company of those who remember their Lord morning and evening seeking His Approval.(6:52, 8:52-54, 89:29:30). And let not your eyes overlook them in quest for the beauties of this world. And pay no heed to any whom Our Law has made to forget Us because he only follows his desires, and abandons all that is right.

18:29 Proclaim, "This is the Truth from your Lord. Whoever accepts it, let him accept it, and whoever rejects it, let him reject it.” Verily, for all those who wrong their own “Self” We have readied billowing folds of fire to surround them. When they beg for water, they will be given their burning hot deeds that backfire on their faces, a drink of distress they gave others. (9:34-35). How dreadful a drink, and how terrible a resting place!

18:30 But, behold, as for those who attain belief and do works that help others, verily, We never fail to reward such benefactors of humanity.

18:31 Theirs shall be the Gardens of Eden with rivers flowing beneath. They will be adorned with bracelets of gold, and wear green robes of finest silk, brocade and velvet, reclining upon thrones of honor. What a wonderful reward, and how goodly a place to rest!

18:32 (The real success belongs to those who work for both lives.) Cite for them the example of two men. To one of them, We had given two vineyards, and surrounded them with date palms and placed a field of grain in between.

18:33 Both gardens produced plenty of fruit on time, as We caused a rivulet to flow through them.

18:34 And so the man had fruit in abundance. One day he boastfully said to his friend, “I am more than you in wealth and in honor among people.”

18:35 And having thus wronged himself, he entered his garden saying, “I don’t think that this will ever perish!”

18:36 He said, “I don’t think that the Hour will ever come. And, if indeed I am returned to my Lord, I will surely find something even better as my resort.”

18:37 His friend differed with him, “Do you disbelieve in the One Who created you from dust, and then from gametes, and then shaped you into the current human form?”

18:38 “As for me, God is my Lord and I will never accept any other god besides my Lord.”

18:39 And he continued, “Alas, when you entered your garden, you should have said, 'This is what Allah has given me according to His Laws for no one has Power but Allah.' You see that I have less wealth and fewer children than you.” (Still I associate no one with Him).

18:40 He said, “So my Lord may grant me something better than your garden. (The luxuries of this life are vulnerable). He may send a calamity from the height to wipe out this garden, leaving it a heap of barren dust.”

18:41 Or, it may happen that the water level recedes low, out of your reach.” (Therefore we must invest for the Eternity as well).

18:42 And thus it happened. One day, the arrogant man’s fruitful gardens were indeed wiped out. And there he was, twisting and turning his hands in sorrow. He lost his property which was now tumbled to pieces in complete ruin. And he could only say, "Oh, I wish I never worshiped anyone (even my property) instead of my Lord!”

18:43 Now he had none to help him against the Divine Laws, nor could he help himself.

18:44 Thus it is. The only invincible protection comes from Allah alone. He is the Best to grant recompense, and the Best to determine what must be.

18:45 Cite for them the example of the materialistic life of this world. It is like the water We send down from the sky, and which is absorbed by plants of the earth. But in time they turn into dry stubble or hay which the winds blow freely about. Allah is Competent and all events take place according to His Laws over which He has full control. (Total preoccupation with the material aspects of life deprives people from growing in humanity).

18:46 (Our Bounties and Blessings are for you to enjoy, but they are a means to a higher end 7:32). Wealth and children are the joys of the life of this world. But good deeds that fulfill the needs of others, their fruit endures forever. Such actions are of far greater merit in the Sight of your Lord, and the best foundation of hope. (19:76).

18:47 Hence, know the Day when the tycoons of wealth and power will be shaken by Our Law, and the poor downtrodden will come at par with them. All humanity will stand equal. No person will stay behind in his or her birth right of dignity. (20:105).

18:48 All mankind will be one, as they were in the beginning (2:213). Before their Lord total equity will prevail as if all were lined up before Him (10:19). “Now, indeed, you have come to Us just as the initial state after We created you. This is so, although you thought that We had not set it to happen.”

18:49 The Book (Qur'an) will be laid open before all humanity and you will behold the guilty filled with fear what they see therein. Legislation at that time will be based on the Book. Those who were used to stealing the fruit of others' labor will be scared. They will say, “Oh, woe unto us! What kind of a Book is this! It leaves out nothing, be it small or great, but takes everything into account!” In the Divine System every deed, small or big will come forth (53:39-40). Universal Justice will prevail since your Lord does not wrong anyone. (This verse applies to the Hereafter as well in the form of the Divine Record Book, just as Hell and Paradise are frequently mentioned in the Qur'an applying to both lives).

18:50 Recall when We told the angels, “Bow yourselves before Adam!” They all bowed except Iblis. He was of the hidden selfish desires that drifted away from his Lord's Command. Will you still befriend him and his comrades? What a miserable exchange do the wrongdoers make for the right guidance! (2:30-38).

18:51 I never permitted any creatures to witness the creation of the heavens and the earth, nor their own creation. And neither do I need to take as My helpers those beings (religious leaders) who lead people astray.

18:52 Be mindful of the Day when He will say, “Call those whom you assigned as My partners.” Then they will call upon them, but they will not hear their call. We shall set a gulf of doom between them.

18:53 Those who thrived on the fruit of others’ toil will gaze at the Fire, and will realize that they are bound to fall into it, and will find no way to escape.

18:54 Indeed, for the benefit of mankind We use TASREEF to explain the Qur’an from various vantage points. However, man, above all other imperfections, is given to contention.

18:55 For, what is there to keep people from attaining belief now that Guidance has come to them, and from asking the protecting forgiveness of their Lord? Unless they choose the fate of the ancient people to befall them or that the doom reaches them even faster.

18:56 But We send the Messengers only as heralds of glad tidings and as Warners. Whereas the rejecters contend with false arguments, trying to refute the Truth, and to make My Verses and warnings a target of their mockery.

18:57 And who does greater harm to himself than the one to whom his Lord’s Messages are conveyed and he turns away from them, forgetting what he is doing and what wrong he has done before? Our Law makes their hearts and ears impermeable to reason and advice. No matter what you do to guide them, they will not allow themselves to be shown the right way.

18:58 Yet, your Lord is the Truly-Forgiving One, full of Grace. He could task the rejecters right away for whatever wrong they commit, and punish them then and there. But He gives them a period of respite beyond which they shall find no refuge.

18:59 Our Law of Requital annihilated many communities when they went on and on with their unjust systems. They were all given a due period of respite (in order to make mends) and We set up a time-limit for their annihilation.

18:60 (The Divine Revelation shows the Way and the outcome with conviction. When Moses was a young man, not yet commissioned as a Prophet, he was constantly in search of Truth 93:7. All Prophets were chosen by birth but assigned their mission at a later date. The young Moses knew that the human intellect was the source of conceptual knowledge whereas the Divine Revelation is the extrinsic knowledge from beyond human faculties.)

And so, in the course of his quest for knowledge Moses said to his young friend, “I shall not give up until I reach the junction of the two streams, though I march on for ages in my quest.”

18:61 But when Moses with his young friend reached the junction of the two streams, they forgot all about the fish, and it took its way into the sea and disappeared from sight. (Moses found himself caring little for the delicacies of life from then on).

18:62 And after the two had walked some distance, Moses said to his young friend, “Bring us our lunch, the journey has been tiring.”

18:63 Said his friend, “Would you believe it? When we rested at the rock, I forgot about the fish and none but Satan, my wandering thoughts, made me forget it. And it took its way into the sea. How strange!

18:64 Moses said, “That is what we were seeking!” And the two turned back retracing their footsteps. (Moses retired to rest in deep thought).

18:65 (Moses wondered how exciting the merging of the two streams would be! And he imagined that) he found a servant of Ours, on whom We had bestowed grace from Our Presence and unto whom We had imparted knowledge from Ourselves.

[A close examination of verses 60-65 is quite revealing. From this point on the young friend suddenly disappears. Also consider the way the fish disappeared, and how then, Moses remarks, "That is what we were seeking". I agree with Allama Muhammad Asad that the 'fish' here is only figurative. I also understand that the young friend of Moses is none else but his own youthful enthusiasm taking him to a great quest. Then in 18:64 Moses goes back retracing his footsteps. So, what happens next is most probably his deep contemplation at rest. The forthcoming mystical story is worth pondering. The enlightened man who meets Moses at this juncture, and later his weird actions, definitely grant him an allegorical and not a tangible presence. For these reasons we believe that 18: 60-82, the Qur’an is relating the intellectual search of Moses rather than his physical experience.]

18:66 Moses (in his contemplation) said to the man, “May I follow you that you may teach me some of the knowledge and guidance which you have been taught?”

18:67 He said, "Verily, you won't be able to have patience with me.

18:68 And how can you bear with that which you cannot comprehend?"

18:69 Moses said, "God willing, you will find me patient and I will not disobey you."

18:70 The man said, "Well, if you go with me, ask me not any questions unless I choose to tell you about it."

18:71 So they went on until they were in a boat and he made a hole in it. Moses said, "Did you make a hole to drown people? You have done something terrible!"

18:72 The man said, "Didn't I tell you that you could not bear with me?"

18:73 Said Moses, “Do not rebuke me for forgetting. And be not hard on me for my fault.”

18:74 So they went on till, when they met a lad, he slew him. Moses said, "What! Have you slain an innocent person who had slain none?” Verily, you have done a horrible thing."

18:75 The man said, “Didn’t I tell you that you could not bear with me?”

18:76 Moses said, “If I ask you after this about anything, then do not keep me with you. By then you shall have received enough excuses from me.”

18:77 So they proceeded. When they reached a township, they asked its folk for food, but they refused them hospitality. Soon they saw a wall that was about to collapse, and he fixed it. Moses said, "If you had wished, you could taken a wage for that."

18:78 He replied, “This is the parting between you and me! But I will explain to you the real meaning of things you could not bear with patience."

18:79 "As for the boat, it belonged to poor people working on the river, and I wished to make it defective. For, behind them was a king who was taking every (good) boat by force.

18:80 And as for the lad, his parents were true believers whereas we had every reason to fear that he would bring bitter grief upon them by rebellion and disbelief.

18:81 And so we desired that their Sustainer grant them instead of him, a child better in purity of conduct and affection.

18:82 As for the wall, it belonged to two orphan boys in the town. And there was a treasure for them, beneath the wall. Their late father was a righteous man, and your Lord wanted them to grow up to full maturity and then extract their treasure as a Mercy from your Lord. I did it not of my own accord (but carried out the Divine Command). This is the explanation of things you could not stand.”

(As the pondering was over, Moses understood that Revelation is to the intellect what the sunlight is to the eye. Thus ended his intellectual journey. Later on Moses was commissioned to Prophethood and experienced the Divine Revelation first hand).

18:83 (O Messenger) They ask you about Zul-Qarnain. Say, "I will convey to you something by which he is worth remembering."

18:84 We established him in power on earth and granted him the ways and means to accomplish his objectives.

18:85 Zul-Qarnain, (King Cyrus the great of Persia, 590-529 B.C.) set out for an expedition. He chose the right means in whatever he did.

18:86 (Conquering land to the West toward Lydia, he reached as far as the Black Sea.) The sun was setting and it appeared to him as if it was setting in the dark waters. (The local nation, given to wrongdoing, fought against him and lost). We said, "O Zul-Qarnain! Either punish or be kind to them."

18:87 Cyrus said to them, “As for him who does wrong from now on, we shall punish him. And then he will be brought back before his Lord Who will commit him to greater retribution.

18:88 But whoever will believe and work for the good of others, good will be his reward and we will treat him kindly.”

18:89 (After establishing peace in the West) he once again chose the right means to achieve a right end. (He set forth to an expedition towards the East).

18:90 Then he reached (Balkh in Afghanistan) the rising place of the sun, the easternmost point of his expedition. He found it rising on a people for whom We had appointed no shelter from it. (They built no houses and lived a nomadic life).

18:91 So it was, and We knew all about him and his resources. (He helped that nation with his abundant resources that We had given him).

18:92 And once again he chose the right means to achieve a right end. (North towards Caucasus.)

18:93 When he reached the valley between two mountain ranges, he found people whose language was barely understandable to him.

18:94 (Through interpreters) they presented a grievance, "O Zul-Qarnain! Behold, Gog and Magog are spoiling this land. They keep attacking and commit bloody crimes. May we, then, pay to you a regular tribute that you will erect a barrier between us and them?" (21:96).

18:95 He responded, "The power in which My Lord has established me is better than tribute. Help me then with manpower; I will erect a strong barrier between you and them."

18:96 “Bring me pieces of iron.” (His engineers worked their skills using dirt and molten iron and filled the gap between the mountains). When he had filled up the space between the two steep mountainsides, he said, “(Light a fire and) blow with your bellows!” When it was red hot, he said, “Bring me molten copper and tar to pour over it.”

18:97 Thus they (Gog and Magog) could not climb it, nor could they bore holes in it.

18:98 Said the King, "This is a mercy from my Lord. Yet when the time appointed by my Lord shall come, He will make this barrier level with the ground. And my Lord’s Promise always comes true. (This barrier will stay in place and crumble according to the Divine Laws in the Universe).

18:99 (Zul-Qarnain was correct that such obstructions would become immaterial with time.) We will let some nations to invade others on a day when the trumpets of war will be blown. Then We will gather them together in battle-fields. (Gog and Magog, the powerful imperialist nations will exploit one another and the weaker nations and great wars will take place).

18:100 Peoples who had been rejecting the Divine Writ that ‘Mankind is one community,’ We will cause them to face hell at the hands of one another.

18:101 They whose eyes were veiled to see My Reminder, and who could not bear to hear.

18:102 Do the disbelievers in My Reminder think that they can choose my servants as allies besides Me? Verily, We have readied hell as a welcome for the disbelievers. (No matter what coalitions they make, if they befriend systems other than the Divine Order, they will end up in hell).

18:103 Say, "Shall We inform you who the worst losers are in respect of their deeds?"

18:104 They are the ones whose effort in the life of the world remains misdirected. And yet they think that they are doing good work. (They work in the wrong cause, contrary to the Divine Reminder).

18:105 It is they who have chosen to deny their Sustainer’s Messages and the truth that they are destined to meet Him. Hence, their works are vain, and on the Day of Resurrection We will assign no weight to them.

18:106 That is their reward, Hell! For, they rejected the Truth, and ridiculed My Messages and My Messengers.

18:107 But verily, as for those who attain belief and fulfill the needs of others, the gardens of Paradise will be there to welcome them.

18:108 Therein shall they abide. They will not even desire a change!

18:109 Say, "If all the sea were ink for my Sustainer’s Words, the sea would indeed be exhausted before my Sustainer’s Words are exhausted! And thus it would be if We were to add to it sea upon sea.” (31:27).

18:110 Say (O Prophet), "I am but a mortal man like all of you. It is revealed to me that your God is the One and Only God. Hence, whoever looks forward to meeting His Sustainer, let him do works that help others, and let him admit no one as partner in the service of his Sustainer. ”

**Surah 19 – Mariam – Mary**

[Author's Note] This is the 19th Surah of the Qur’an. It has 98 Verses. One of the important injunctions that clearly come through in this Surah is that Allah makes Laws as He Wills in the World of Command and enforces them in the World of Creation i.e. the Universe. And, then, He never changes them. The grand empire of human learning, development, invention, science and technology would have failed to come off ground if Allah’s physical Laws in the Universe were to keep changing. Pregnancy, and childbirth require the unison of the male and the female chromosomes. Allah never changes His Laws, therefore the idea of a virgin birth, although popular among the Christians and the Muslims, is non-Qur’anic and absolutely erroneous.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is probably more often mentioned in the Qur’an than in the Bible, as a lady of outstanding determination and character. Prophet Zachariah was the elder contemporary of Mary. Both descended from Prophet Aaron. The families had been the custodians of the holy

shrines in Canaan (Palestine). Zachariah, a distant uncle was Mary's guardian in the sanctuary. Jesus is referred to as son of Mary because his mother was more prominent and also because his father Joseph the carpenter, died at an early age. The Bible also refers to Jesus as son of man and as son of David, and Elizabeth wife of Zachariah is called the daughter of Aaron. Also, in the history of mankind Mary was the first revolutionary, and that too, a feminine voice against the institution of monasticism that was never Divinely ordained.

Before moving on, let us note a few salient points for the sake of clear understanding.

- Mary was a descendant of Prophet Aaron. Even generations after a prominent man, it was customary to call the descendants this way. In Luke 1:5 Elizabeth, the wife of Prophet Zachariah, is referred to as "One of the daughters of Aaron". That is why Mary is referred to as sister of Aaron in 19:28.

- In 19:23 it appears that Mary is talking to her husband. Violation of the sanctuary rules, a land far from home, lack of shelter and labor pains all added to her grief.

Now a few important concepts given in the Qur'an that strongly negate the fallacy of the "virgin birth" of Jesus:

- Allah does all things according to His Laws 3:40,19:9.
- And you will never see Allah's Laws changing or deviating (6:34, 6:116, 10:64, 17:77, 18:27, 33:38, 33:62, 35:43, 40:85, 48:23).
- The example of Jesus, as far as GOD is concerned, is the same as that of Adam. He created him from dust; then said to him, " Be", and he was (3:59).
- By Adam is meant all mankind (7:11).
- All men are created from dust, then from a zygote, male and female (22:5).
- The Qur'an emphatically and repeatedly states that all human beings are procreated from both male and female, without exceptions.
- Even God won't have an offspring since He never had a mate (6:101).

Verse 19:22 narrates Mary moving far-off from her village. Since Mary had broken the rules of the shrine, she and her family kept the marriage with Joseph Carpenter confidential. When she became pregnant, the husband and wife decided to move far away to avoid the mockery of people.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

19:1 K.H.Y.'A.S. Kareem the Honored, Hadi the Guide, Yamen the Bounteous, Aleem the Knower, Sadiq the Truthful,

19:2 Relates to you a mercy of your Sustainer unto His servant Zachariah.

19:3 When he called out to his Lord in the secrecy of his heart. (3:37).

19:4 He said, "My Lord! My bones have turned brittle and my head is shining with gray hair, and I have never remained unblessed in my prayer to you, my Lord."

19:5 " Now I fear what my relatives will do after me. (I am concerned about the heritage of my forefathers such as Jacob). But my wife is barren. Oh, Give me from Your Presence, a successor.

19:6 Let him be my heir and the heir of the house of Jacob and make him, my Lord, worthy of Your acceptance.”

19:7 He was told, “O Zachariah! We give you the good news of a boy whose name shall be Yahya (John the Baptist). We have never given this name to anyone before.” (19:65).

19:8 Zachariah exclaimed, "My Lord! How can I have a son when my wife is barren and I am already infirm with old age?"

19:9 He said, "Thus it is. Your Lord says, ‘It is easy for Me.’ I created you before, and you were nothing." (The infertility in his wife was treated. 21:90).

19:10 Zachariah said, “My Lord! Give me a special message.” He said, “The Message is that you shall not speak to people for three nights (and days) consecutively.” (He was not to break the news too soon, before he and his wife Elizabeth got over their excitement). (3:40-41, 19:26).

19:11 Then Zachariah came out from the shrine and told his deputies by signs, “Keep striving in your mission morning and evening that his Glory be manifest to beholders.”

19:12 (John was born according to the good news.) We told him “O Yahya! Hold fast the Scripture.” And We had granted him wisdom and good judgment when he was yet a little boy.

19:13 We gave him compassion and a spotless character. And he lived an upright life.

19:14 He was dutiful toward his parents, and was polite, not rebellious or arrogant.

19:15 Peace on him the day he was born, the day he died and the day he shall be raised alive!

19:16 (O Prophet) Make mention of Mary in the Book when she withdrew from her people to an eastern location. (She left the sanctuary and went to her village in Nazareth).

19:17 (Since she was not used to mixing with people), she had chosen seclusion from them. Then We sent to her Our angel who appeared to her in the shape of a well-made human being (although he had no physical or material existence).

19:18 She exclaimed, “Verily, I seek refuge in the Most Gracious that you may be righteous.”

19:19 He said, "I am only a Messenger of your Lord who says ‘I shall bestow upon you the gift of a son endowed with a spotless character.’” (Tasreef with 3:45 is very important here).

19:20 She said, "How can I have a son when no man has ever touched me? For, never have I been a loose woman!” (3:46, 19:28).

19:21 The angel answered, “Thus it is; but your Lord says, ‘It is easy for Me, so that We make him a symbol for people and a grace from Us. (A symbol of belief and disbelief, with the grace of Revelation). And it is a thing decreed.” (3:46-47).

9:22 And in time she conceived him and withdrew with him to a far-off place, (Bethlehem).

19:23 And when labor pains drove her to the trunk of a palm-tree, she exclaimed, “Ah, I wish I had died before this, and had become a thing forgotten, utterly forgotten!”

19:24 A voice came to her from beneath the palm-tree, “Grieve not! Your Lord has provided a rivulet beneath you."

19:25 "And shake the trunk of the palm-tree towards you. It will drop fresh ripe dates upon you."

19:26 "Eat then and drink, and let your eyes be gladdened! And if you see any human being, convey this to him, ‘Behold, I have made a vow of silence for the Beneficent. Hence, I may not speak to any person today.’ ”

19:27 Later, she returned to her people carrying the child with her. They said, "O Mary! You have come with an amazing thing (breaking the rules of the shrine).”

19:28 “O Sister of Aaron! Your father was not a bad man, nor was your mother a loose woman, nor did she ever oppose the system."

19:29 Then she pointed to him. They said, "How can we talk to one who is in the cradle, a young boy?" (In the cradle, idiomatically means a young person. Mary and Joseph had stayed in Bethlehem for several years).

19:30 But he spoke up, "Behold, I am a servant of God. He has given me Revelation and appointed me a Prophet.”

19:31 “He has made me blessed wherever I may be. He has enjoined upon me to establish the Divine System and help set up the Just Economic Order as long as I live.”

19:32 “And He has made me kind to my mother, and has not made me haughty, unblessed.”

19:33 “Hence, peace was upon me on the day I was born, the day I die, and on the day I shall be raised to life again." (19:15).

19:34 Such was Jesus, the son of Mary and this is the Truth of this matter about whose nature they so deeply disagree.

19:35 It does not befit God that He begets a son. He is Glorious, High above (what they say). When He decrees a thing, it starts happening.

19:36 And (Jesus always said), "Verily, Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so serve Him alone. This is the Straight Path."

19:37 And yet, the sects (that follow the Bible) differ among themselves. Woe then, unto all who deny the Truth when that awesome Day will appear.

19:38 How plainly will they hear and see the truth when they come before Us! Today, however, they persist in doing wrong to themselves and are obviously lost in error.

19:39 Hence, warn them of the Day of Regrets, when the case will be decided. Being negligent of their duty to investigate with reason, they do not believe in the reality as yet.

19:40 Behold, We inherit the earth, and all who are thereon, and unto Us all will return.

19:41 And call to mind, through this Book, of Abraham. Behold, he was a man of truth, a Prophet.

19:42 He even confronted his father (Azar), “O My father! Why worship that which hear not and see not and can be of no avail to you?” (Azar, Terah, was the Chief Priest of King Nimrod Shaddad of Babylon and Ninevah, and was a master sculptor).

19:43 "O My father! Behold, There has indeed come to me of knowledge that came not to you. Follow me then, and I will lead you onto a perfect way.”

19:44 “O My father! Serve not the Satan. Satan, the selfish desire, is a rebel against the Beneficent.”

19:45 “O My father! I am afraid that a retribution from (the Law of) the Beneficent might overtake you, and you be counted among the friends of Satan.”

19:46 He answered, "You dislike my gods, O Abraham? If you cease not, I will certainly cause you to be stoned to death! Now get away from me for good! ” (As the Chief Priest, Azar had the power to declare someone apostate and condemn him to be stoned. For the Divine Statute of no compulsion in religion see 2:256).

19:47 Abraham said, "Peace be upon you! I will pray to my Lord for your forgiveness. For, He is ever Kind to me.” (9:114).

19:48 “I am withdrawing from you all and from whatever you invoke besides Allah. I will call on my Lord. By imploring my Lord alone, I cannot go wrong." (60:4).

19:49 So, when he abandoned them and their deities besides Allah, We bestowed upon him with a son Isaac and a grandson Jacob. And each of them We made a Prophet. (Abraham had moved from Mesopotamia-Babylon to Syria, never to return again).

19:50 We showered them with Our Grace and We granted them a high and true renown.

19:51 And make mention in this Book, of Moses. Verily, he was sincerely devoted and a Prophet bearing Our Message.

19:52 We called and blessed him with Revelation by the Mount Sinai and made him draw near to Us to converse in secret. (Right side of the Mount allegorically indicates blessing).

19:53 And We bestowed upon him of Our Mercy his brother, Aaron, a Prophet as well.

19:54 And make mention in the Book, of Ishmael. He was truthful in his pledge, and he was a Prophet bearing Our Message.

19:55 He enjoined upon his people the establishment of the Divine System and of the Just Economic Order. He was highly acceptable in the Sight of his Lord.

19:56 And make mention of Idris (Enoch) in the Book. Verily, he was a man of truth, a Prophet.

19:57 And We raised him to a high station of honor.

19:58 These are some of the Prophets whom Allah Blessed. They all were from the descendants of Adam, the early humans. The descendants of those whom We carried with Noah on the Ark, and the descendants of Abraham and Jacob, the Israel. We guided them and selected them (so that they could guide people). Whenever the Messages of the Most Gracious were conveyed to them, they would fall down prostrate in tears. (In total submission they put their hearts into their mission).

19:59 But after them came generations who abandoned the Divine System and followed after lusts. And, these will, in time, meet utter disillusion.

19:60 Except those who repent by returning to the right track, truly believe and take corrective action. Such will enter the Garden and will not be wronged in the least.

19:61 The Gardens of Eternal Bliss (Eden) that the Beneficent has promised to His servants in the realm of the Unseen. Verily, His Promise must always come to pass.

19:62 They will hear no insult to intelligence nor vain discourse, but only salutations of Peace. And therein they will have their sustenance day and night. (Likewise, in the Ideal Society no person will sleep hungry and there shall be plenty of provision for all).

19:63 Such is the Garden which We give as an inheritance to those of Our servants who have lived upright (and thus earned it with their own hands).

19:64 And the angels say, “We, descend not but by the Command of your Lord. (Inspiration and optimism, motivation, courage, steadfastness, hope and good news are the angels of your Lord who support you when you walk aright). To Him belong our assignments of the past, present and future. Your Lord never does forget.” (41:31)

19:65 Lord of the heavens and the earth and all things between them! Therefore, serve Him steadfastly and be constant in His service. Do you know anyone that can be named along with Him?

19:66 Man (keeps thinking or) says, “What! When I am dead, shall I be raised up alive?”

19:67 But does not man reflect that We created him before, when he was nothing?

19:68 So, by your Lord, without doubt, We shall certainly get them together including the rebellious ones; then We shall bring them crouching, around Hell.

19:69 Then, We will drag out from among every sect the most stubborn in rebellion to the Beneficent.

19:70 And certainly We know best those who are more worthy of being burned therein.

19:71 Everyone of you (followers of the most stubborn rebels) will approach it (19:69, 19:86, 21:99). This is a fixed decree of your Lord.

19:72 And once again, We shall save the upright and leave the wrongdoers crouching in humiliation. (Those who walk aright will be kept so clear of hell that they won't even hear any commotion 21:102).

19:73 As it is, when Our Messages are presented to them in all clarity, the rejecters say to the believers, "Which of the two sides, yours or ours, has a better position and glamour?"

19:74 And yet, how many a communities Our Law of Requital has annihilated before them. They were better in equipment and glitter.

19:75 Say, "The Beneficent gives respite to those who go astray. During this period of respite they either mend their ways or move on to see the promise of retribution in this life or the Hour of Doom. Then they know who is worse off and weaker in forces."

19:76 Allah increases in Guidance, those who seek it and wish to walk aright. The lasting good deeds that fulfill the needs of others, are eternally rewarded by your Lord, and are best for eventual returns and better for resort.

19:77 Have you seen the kind of person who denies Our Messages and says, "Surely, I will be given wealth and children." (He fails to realize that there is more to life than these blessings).

19:78 Do they know the realm of the Unseen? Have they taken a promise from the Beneficent?

19:79 Nay, We shall record what he says, and prolong for him a span of torment.

19:80 To Us shall return all that he talks of, and he shall appear before us in a lonely state.

19:81 And they have chosen idols in various forms besides Allah, hoping that they would be a source of strength for them.

19:82 But nay, they will reject their worship, and will turn against them.

19:83 Are you not aware that Our Law unleashes all satanic forces upon the rejecters to impel them in fury against the Truth?

19:84 So make no haste against them, for We mark the number of their days.

19:85 On the Day when We shall gather the righteous unto Us, the Beneficent, like a delegation presented for honors,

19:86 And drive the violators of human rights unto Hell as a thirsty herd is driven to a well,

19:87 None will have the benefit of intercession unless he has entered into a bond with the Beneficent during the life of the world.

9:88 As it is, some assert, “The Beneficent has betaken a son!”

19:89 Indeed, you have put forth something monstrous!

19:90 Whereby almost the heavens are torn, and the earth is split asunder, and the mountains fall in ruins!

19:91 That men should ascribe a son to the Most Gracious.

19:92 It is not befitting for the Majesty of the Beneficent that He should choose a son.

19:93 There is none in the heavens and the earth but comes to the Beneficent as a servant.

19:94 Indeed, He fully knows them, and has counted them one by one.

19:95 And each of them will come to Him singly on the Resurrection Day.

19:96 Verily, those who attain belief and work for the good of others, the Beneficent will endow them with love.

19:97 And only to this end We have made this (Qur'an) easy to understand in your own tongue (O Prophet). That you might convey thereby glad news to the righteous and warn people given to futile contention.

19:98 For, how many a generation has Our Law of Requital destroyed before their time! Can you perceive a single one of them now or hear a whisper of them?

**Surah 20 – Ta Ha – The Ideal Prophet**

[Author's note] This is the 20th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 135 verses many of which are very brief. Ta Ha is the metaphor for perfection illustrated by the full moon. All Prophets are one in purpose but their timings and jurisdictions have been different. Muhammad Sall-Allahu Wasaalam is the Final Prophet / Messenger on whom the Divine Message to humanity was perfected forever. The Title TA HA represents, and linguistically implies THE IDEAL PROPHET. As per style of the Qur'an, the title of a Surah is not at all restrictive. This Surah makes a most beautiful use of allegories. The forthcoming verses give us a beautiful walk-through of the flowery concepts in this Divine Forest. Let us move along in the fragrant mist of Ta Ha.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

20:1 O Ideal Prophet!

20:2 We have not bestowed upon you this Qur'an to cause you any hardship.

20:3 But as a Reminder to the reverent, those who stand in awe of the Creator.

20:4 A Revelation from Him Who created the earth and the high skies.

20:5 The Beneficent, established on the throne of His Almightiness. (He maintains Supreme Control over all that He has created).

20:6 Unto Him belongs what is in the heavens, what is in the earth, and all between them, and all that is beneath the soil.

20:7 And if you speak aloud, then verily, He knows the secret thoughts, as well as that is yet more hidden within man.

20:8 Allah! There is no god but He. His are the most beautiful Names. (His alone are the attributes of perfection).

20:9 Has there come to you the history of Moses?

20:10 When he saw a fire (in the desert), he said to his family, "Wait! Behold, I see a fire far away. Perhaps I can bring to you a burning torch from there or find some guidance at the fire (to get directions)."

20:11 (This is the story of the days when Moses had reached the converging point of the stream of the conceptual knowledge of intellect, and the stream of the extrinsic knowledge of the Divine Revelation 18:65). When Moses reached the fire, a voice called out, "O Moses!

20:12 Verily, I am your Lord! Take off your sandals, verily, you are in the sacred valley of Tuwa." (Your quest for the Truth is over. So lighten the burdens of your search. Now you are in the Sacred Valley of Revelation).

20:13 I have chosen you to be My Prophet. Listen, then, to what is being revealed.

20:14 Verily, I, I alone am Allah, there is no god but Me. Therefore, serve Me alone, and from this very moment strive to establish the Divine Order in the land to practically remember Me.

20:15 Behold, the revolution is surely coming. But I Will to keep it hidden for the time-being. (You will be the pioneer of a great revolution, the signs of which are not yet visible). The purpose of this revolution will be for every person to get the fair compensation of his hard work (and bring an end to the hegemony of Pharaoh and his people).

20:16 Let not those people join your mission who consider it an impossible dream. They accept only what resonates with their desires. Such people will do more harm than good to your Mission."

20:17 "What is your strength O Moses?" (Moses was then given complete Guidance and strong Logic, and was encouraged to ask any questions).

20:18 He said, "Your Guidance is my strength. It will help me in all walks of life. I will prove to be a competent shepherd for the Israelites, and will use it as the challenges come forth."

20:19 Allah said, "You are now ready to embark upon your mission."

20:20 He felt that the Message given to him was vibrant with life.

20:21 He said, “Grasp it and fear not. We will keep it evergreen.” Moses was told to hold fast to what he was taught to the extent that it became his first nature; even in frightening situations. And that he would come out unscathed from trying circumstances.

20:22 The Light in your heart will shine forth in the power of your presentation of the Truth. Another clear evidence!

20:23 We will show you some of Our great Signs (witness how the strength of the Truth can bring about great Revolutions 17:1, 79:20).

20:24 Go to Pharaoh who is transgressing the limits."

20:25 Moses said, “My Lord! Expand my chest with confidence, courage and steadfastness. (94:1).

20:26 Give me the strength that the formidable challenge becomes easy for me. (94:5).

20:27 Make me eloquent of speech.

20:28 That my word reaches the depths of their hearts.

20:29 And appoint a deputy for me from my folk.

20:30 My brother Aaron.

20:31 Strengthen me with him.

20:32 Make him my partner in my Mission.

20:33 That both of us strive hard together.

20:34 And we raise every step remembering Your Commands.

20:35 It is a great feeling that You watch us every moment."

20:36 God said, “O Moses! All your requests are granted. (10:89).

20:37 We have blessed you before and prepared you for this day, (since you were born).

20:38 When We inspired your mother with this inspiration.

20:39 Saying, “Place him (the baby Moses) in a box, and cast the box into the river. The river will cast it on to the bank, and it will be picked up by the one who considers Me and him (Moses) as his enemy. O Moses! I prepared you for this day with love, and reared you before My Sight.

20:40 Your sister walked (to the Royal Palace )and said to the royals, ‘I can tell you of a nursing mother who can take good care of the baby.’ We thus returned you to your mother, that she may be consoled and stop worrying. When you grew up, you accidentally killed a man who was beating up another man (28:15). We resolved this matter for you when you were going through trying periods. Then you dwelt among the Midyanites (with Prophet Shoaib) for several years. (Then you

walked between the two streams, one of intellect and one of Revelation, to the point where they joined 18:65). And now you are here as ordained, O Moses.

20:41 This is how I have made you for My service.

20:42 Now go, you and your brother, with My Messages and stay vigilant about My Remembrance.

20:43 Go, both of you, to Pharaoh. He has indeed transgressed all bounds.

20:44 Speak to him nicely, so that he may take heed and fear the consequences of his actions."

20:45 They said, "Our Lord! Verily, We fear that he might act hastily regarding us in abrupt tyranny."

20:46 Answered He, "Fear not. Behold, I am with both of you, I Hear and I See."

20:47 So go you both to him and say, "We are two Messengers of your Lord. Let the Children of Israel go with us, and stop persecuting them forthwith. We have come to you with a Message from your Lord. And Peace be upon him who follows Right Guidance.

20:48 Verily, it has been revealed to us that doom will be for him who is bent upon denial and turns away."

20:49 Pharaoh said, "Who then is the Lord of you two, O Moses?"

20:50 He replied, "Our Lord is He who creates and shapes everything, assigns its role and guides it aright."

20:51 (Pharaoh in front of his courtiers thought up a tricky question). He said, "What then is the state of the previous generations?" (The forefathers of the dignitaries sitting around, who never believed in your Lord.)

20:52 (Pharaoh expected Moses to say that they would be in Hellfire, and that would infuriate the courtiers.) Moses responded, "The knowledge of that is with my Lord in a Record. My Lord neither errs nor forgets.

20:53 He it is Who has made the earth a cradle for you, and has traced out ways thereon enabling you to go about therein by roads and channels. And He sends down from the sky water." And, by this means We bring forth different classes and pairs of plants.

20:54 Saying, 'Eat and raise your cattle. Verily, herein are signs for men and women of thought.

20:55 From the earth We created you, into it We return you and from it We will bring you forth a second time."

20:56 And (through Moses) We made Pharaoh aware of all Our Messages. (The Message plainly refuted Pharaoh's long-standing claim that he was the high lord of people since he owned the land, the rivers and the resources of Egypt 43:46-54, 79:17-26). But he stubbornly rejected the Message.

20:57 He said, “Have you come here to destabilize our country and drive us out of our land with your false religion and magical arguments, O Moses?

20:58 In that case, We will certainly produce before you the like thereof! (Will answer your arguments and arrange a debate between you, and our priests). Set up an appointment between us and you. Neither we, nor you shall break this appointment. It will be at a location convenient to us both and where both parties will have even chances.” (7:104-126, 10:76-82, 26:34-51).

20:59 Answered Moses, "Your appointed time is the forthcoming Day of the Festival. And let the people be assembled after sunrise."

20:60 Pharaoh turned and collected his strength. (In the next few days he summoned his master debaters, the priests from various towns). And then he came at the appointed time.

20:61 Moses warned Pharaoh's debaters, “Woe unto you! Invent not a lie against God, lest He afflict you with suffering, for whoever invents such a lie is already undone!”

20:62 On hearing this, they debated among themselves about what they must do but they kept their talk secret.

20:63 The chiefs, seeing their hesitation, said to the debaters, "Behold, these two are wizards of logic, capable of carrying the masses with them, destroying your time-honored traditions, and thus estranging you in your own country or causing a great rebellion that drives you out of the land."

20:64 The chiefs took matters very seriously and commanded the debaters, “So arrange your plan, and face Moses and Aaron as a united front. Indeed, he is the victor today who gains the upper hand.”

20:65 The debaters asked, "O Moses! Do you begin or shall we go first?"

20:66 He said, "Nay, you go first." Their smart presentation appeared to him to put life into otherwise feeble arguments with their logic wandering in different directions. (They were throwing the ropes of falsehood against the Rope of Allah).

20:67 Moses feared in his heart that their expertise of playing with words might influence the audience. (7:116).

20:68 We said, “Fear not! Verily, it is you who will prevail.

20:69 Present your case with confidence and the sheer power of Truth will swallow all their handiwork. Their fabrication is no more than a scheme of deception. And the liars succeed not against the Truth, however skillfully they design their strategy.”

20:70 Then down fell the debaters prostrating themselves, and exclaimed "We have come to believe in the Lord of Aaron and Moses!"

20:71 Pharaoh said, "Have you come to believe in him before I give you permission? Verily, he must be your master who has conspired with you. I will cut off your hands and feet on alternate

sides and then I will crucify all of you on the palm trunks. Then you will know for certain which of us can give the more severe and the more lasting punishment, (the Lord of Moses or me)."

20:72 They answered, "Never shall we choose you above the clear evidence of the Truth that has come to us, nor prefer you over Him Who brought us into being! So issue whatever decree you will. Your judgment can only touch us in this worldly life.

20:73 As for us, behold, we have come to believe in our Lord hoping that He may forgive us our faults. And that He may forgive us for the lies that you had forced us to speak. For, Allah is Best and Most Abiding."

20:74 Verily, as for him who shall appear before his Sustainer while he had been violating human rights, for him shall be Hell. He will neither die there nor live. (14:17, 87:13).

20:75 Whereas he who appears before Him as a believer who had been doing good to others, such people will have lofty ranks.

20:76 And Gardens of Eden (Perpetual Bliss) beneath which rivers flow, therein to abide. That shall be the recompense of all those who have developed their personality. (They have actualized their "Self" by helping humanity with their wealth and person).

20:77 Finally, a time came when We commanded Moses, "Take away My servants by night and find for them a dry path through the Sea of Reeds. Fear not of being overtaken (by Pharaoh), and dread not the sea." (7:130, 26:63, 44:24).

20:78 Pharaoh pursued them with his forces, but the high tide completely overwhelmed them, and covered them up.

20:79 This is because Pharaoh had led his nation astray and had not guided them aright. (Therein is an example that the top leadership could make or break a nation).

20:80 O Children of Israel! We saved you from your enemy, and then made a Covenant with you by the right-hand slope of Mount Sinai, and gave you ample provision, meats and wholesome vegetation. (2:57, right slope 19:52).

20:81 Saying, "Partake and enjoy the decent provisions which We have bestowed upon you. But do not disregard equity and none shall be deprived of the natural resources. Transgress not in this respect lest My disapproval should descend on you. And those nations on whom descends My disapproval do perish indeed!"

20:82 And verily, I am the Protecting Forgiver. There is plenty of room in My Laws to forgo wrongs of the past, so repent by coming back to the right path. Those who believe in My Laws, keep the collective good of the society in mind, and maintain that Order, will find themselves on the way to Success.

20:83 (Once, Moses was a step ahead in excitement.) Said his Lord, "What has made you hasten from your people, O Moses?"

20:84 Moses answered, “They are doing fine following my footsteps. I have rushed to You my Lord, so that You may be well-pleased with me.”

20:85 Said He, "Our Law has tried your people after you left them, and As-Samiri has misguided them."

20:86 Moses went back to his people angry and sad, “O My people! Has not your Lord promised you many a goodly promise? Did, then, the fulfillment of this promise seem to you too long in coming? Or did you wish that your Lord’s requital come upon you, and so you broke your promise to me?”

20:87 They said, "We intended to break no promises. But this is what happened. We were loaded with the sinful burdens of the (Egyptian people’s) ornament, and so we threw them into the fire, as suggested by this As-Samiri."

20:88 Then As-Samiri (experienced in sculpting) made the effigy of a calf. It even brought forth a lowing sound with wind or when blown into. So they said, "This is your god, and the god of Moses, but he has forgotten.”

[As-Samiri originally hailed from northern India. Babu Rajindra’s treatise “Casting of a caste” shows Samiri belonging to the ‘Untouchables’. Fed up with apartheid he tried to lay down the foundation of a new mixed caste that could socialize with all four castes of Hinduism. As a consequence he was exiled by the powerful Brahmins and ended up in Egypt and later followed Moses in the Exodus. Cow worship was running in his blood stream. Side by side, the golden calf of the Israelites symbolized centuries old Egyptian influence. The Egyptians used to worship the sacred bull APIS who was considered to be a god-incarnate. The soul of the sacred bull upon death was supposed to transmigrate into another idol called OSIRIS whom they worshiped as God’s son. (Recall UZAYR mentioned in the Qur’an (9:30). Some Jews in Arabia, still under the influence of ancient Egyptian traditions during the times of the exalted Messenger, used to believe in UZAYR or OSIRIS the bull-god as God’s son.]

20:89 They knew full well that, like all false deities, the golden calf could not respond to queries, and had no control over their harm or benefit.

20:90 And Aaron indeed had told them beforehand, “O My people! You are being tempted to evil by this idol. Behold, your only Lord is the Beneficent! Follow me then, and obey my order!"

20:91 They said, “We will by no means cease worshiping it until Moses comes back to us.”

20:92 When he returned, Moses asked, “O’ Aaron! What stopped you when you saw them going astray?

20:93 That you followed me not? Didn’t you disobey my order?”

20:94 Aaron said, "O Son of my mother! Don't get mad at me, nor treat me harshly. I feared that you would say, “You have let the Children of Israel divide into parties and sects." (Moses accepted this explanation since sectarianism is no less a crime than idol worship in any form. Seizing the beard and head pertains to harsh interrogation 7:150).

20:95 Moses now turned to Samiri, “What do you have to say O Samiri?”

20:96 He answered, "I have gained insight into something which they have not. So I took hold of a handful of the Messenger's teachings and cast it away. This is what my mind prompted me to do."

20:97 Moses said, "Go away then, for good! In this life it is for you to say, "Touch me not!" And moreover you have a promise that will not fail. (People will consider and treat you as untouchable as before, and the suffering of the Hereafter is inescapable). Now, look at your god to whom you were so devoted. Verily, We will burn it and scatter its ashes far and wide over the sea". (Moses wanted his people to behold the powerlessness of the false deities and their potential to divide humanity).

20:98 Moses continued addressing his people, "Your God is only Allah; there is no god but He. He embraces all things in His Knowledge."

20:99 (O Prophet) We thus tell you some news of what happened in the past. And We have given you a Reminder from Our Presence.

20:100 Whoever turns away from it, he will, verily, bear a heavy load on the Day of Resurrection.

20:101 Abiding under it, an evil burden for them on the Day of Resurrection.

20:102 The Day when the Trumpet will be blown. On that Day We will assemble the guilty with their eyes dimmed in fear of retribution. (20:124).

20:103 Whispering among themselves, "You have lived but ten days."

20:104 We know best all they will say. The most perceptive of them shall say, "You have lived but a day." (75:20-21, 76:28).

20:105 They ask you (O Messenger), "What shall become of the mountains, the tycoons of power and wealth?" Say, "My Lord will blow them away like dust. (18:47, 56:5, 77:10, 78:20, 81:3).

20:106 And leave the earth plain and level." (Falsehood, deception and treachery shall vanish from the land).

20:107 Wherein you see neither curve nor ruggedness. (A life of truthfulness).

20:108 On that Day all people will follow the caller who has no crookedness in him. (Ta Ha, the Ideal Prophet's call. The Call that is straight, without crookedness 2:186, 7:86, 18:1, 33:46). And they will follow the call without deviation. The most vociferous of leaders will subdue their voices before the Message of the Beneficent. You will only hear soft voices, gentle footsteps.

20:109 On that Day, intercession and will be of no avail except if one stands up as a witness and is accepted according to the Law of the Beneficent. (None will have the benefit of intercession unless he has entered into a bond with the Beneficent during the life of the world 19:87).

20:110 This information is given by Him Who knows their past and their future, while none encompasses His Knowledge.

20:111 All faces will be humbled before the Ever-Living, the Self-Subsistent Maintainer of the Universe. And undone will be the violators of human rights.

20:112 Whereas anyone who has done his best to help people, and is a believer in the Divine Values, need have no fear of being wronged or deprived of merit.

20:113 And thus have We sent this down, an Arabic Qur'an, and explained therein warnings in many ways, so that people walk aright or that it makes them rise to a new level of awareness.

20:114 Know, then, that Sublimely Exalted is Allah, the Ultimate Sovereign, the Ultimate Truth. (O Prophet) Hasten not in the learning and implementation of the Message of the Qur’an before a particular revelation to you is completed. These Messages given to you shall be established in stages, but always say, “My Lord! Increase me in knowledge.” (75:16).

20:115 (Without Divine guidance of Revelation man is easily fallible.) And indeed, long ago We made a covenant with Adam (the mankind) that he would hold fast to Our Commands, but he forgot, and We found no constancy in him. (Adam = Mankind 2:30-38, 7:11-25).

20:116 Recall when We said to the angels, “Bow before Adam, they bowed except Iblis; he refused.” (Divine Laws in the Universe have been made of service to man but his selfish desire rebels against himself).

20:117 And thereupon We said, “O Adam! Verily, this is an enemy to you and your wife so let him not drive the two of you out of this Garden so that you are landed into difficulty. You shall then have to toil hard for getting your sustenance.”

20:118 “Behold, you are living the life of Paradise (on this very earth) where you are guaranteed never to go hungry and never to walk improperly clothed.”

20:119 “Neither do you go thirsty, nor are you exposed to the burning sun.” (Well provided with food, clothing, shelter, the basic needs).

20:120 But Satan whispered to him (The selfish desire was teaching him a sinister lesson), "O Adam! Shall I lead you to the tree of eternal life and ownership that is ever-lasting?"

20:121 Man and woman both ate the fruit of the Tree. People started dividing among themselves and their basic necessities of life ceased to remain guaranteed. They had to toil and contend with one another to earn their livelihood. This exposed the flaws in their character. They tried to hide their selfish behavior with superficial courtesy. Adam and his mate had disobeyed their Lord and gone astray. (What was the Forbidden Tree? Not of ‘knowledge’, nor of just ‘life’ as per the Bible. It is the Tree that branches off people into parties, sects, color and race, and yours and mine. The early human beings started marking up lands and hoarding. They also saw their children as a means of attaining immortality. So, this very earth which was a paradise for them to begin with, became a place where they had to continuously toil and often exploit one another to earn a living ---- a paradise lost! 2:34-39, 2:213, 7:11, 7:19-26 15:28-29, 17:61, 18:50, 38:72-73).

20:122 Thereafter his Lord elected him and accepted his repentance and guided him.

20:123 He said, “Go down hence, O humans, males and females, foes to one another competing for sustenance! Nonetheless, there shall most certainly come to you guidance from Me. And

whoever follows My Guidance will not go astray, nor will face hardship.” (Nations who adopt Divine Principles, their economy will be abundant).

20:124 But whoever will turn away from My remembrance, thus ignoring My Commands, his will be a narrow life. (Such individuals and nations will live in economic and moral poverty). And I shall bring such of them blind to the Assembly on the Day of Resurrection. (17:72, 20:102).

20:125 He will wonder, "My Lord, why did you gather me blind when I used to see?" (22:46).

20:126 God will reply, "Thus it is. Our Messages came to you but you were oblivious to them. (Being blind of reason, you disregarded them). And thus, this Day you will be left in oblivion.”

20:127 Thus do We reward him who wastes his own “Self” and believes not in the Messages of his Sustainer. Indeed, the suffering for them in the life to come shall be severe and enduring!

20:128 Is it not a guidance for them to know how many a generation Our Law destroyed before them, amid whose dwelling-places they now walk? In this, behold, are Signs for men and women of thought.

20:129 Now if it were not for a decree that has already been issued by your Lord, setting a term, (the Law of Respite), the Ultimate Requital would have come upon them at once.

20:130 Hence, (O Prophet) be patient about what they say. Strive in the Way of your Sustainer beginning before dawn to before sunset and even hours of the night, practically all day, that the Divine System becomes a living witness of His Praise. So that you attain true happiness (with success in your noble mission).

20:131 And turn not your eyes towards the splendor of the worldly life We have caused many to enjoy. (15:88). Thereby We put them to test. (A chance for them to walk aright or turn away 104:6-7). The provision of you Lord is better and more lasting. (13:17).

20:132 Enjoin upon your family and followers that their central duty remains the establishment of the Divine System. We do not ask you to provide for Us, We provide for you. (The Divine System will take care of everyone's needs). And the future belongs to those who walk aright.

20:133 And they say, "Why does he not bring us a miracle from his Lord?" But has there not come to them a clear evidence of all the truth that was in the former Scriptures? (All Divine Scriptures have been miracles in their own right). (5:48).

20:134 Had Our Law annihilated them with some punishment before this, they would have said, "Our Lord! If only you had sent a Messenger, so that we might have followed Your Messages before we were thus humbled and disgraced!” (5:19).

20:135 Say, "Everyone is hopefully waiting (what the future may bring); wait then, for you will come to know who are on the even path, and who are rightly guided." (6:136).

**21 – Al-Anbia – The Prophets**

[Author's note] This is the 21st Surah of the Qur’an. It has 112 verses. The exalted Messenger is a grace for all humanity since he heralds history’s most significant and benevolent revolution. And his Message is preserved to the letter in the Qur’an, a Book that has the power to unite humanity and solve every single of their problems. It is the foremost liberator of men and women from all kinds of mental and physical bondage. Human equality and equity, compassion and justice, respect of human rights, protection of faith, life, mind, honor and property and unrelenting stress on the Permanent Moral Values, are themes that the reader will find glittering on its pages. Ironically, such Glorious Message is to date hidden behind the clouds of false traditions even from the eyes of those who consider themselves as the custodians of the Book of God. THE QUR’AN AS IT EXPLAINS ITSELF is a unique effort to translate and render the Qur’an into English completely from within itself, and free of the misleading human touch, traditions that have been victimizing this Great Book during the last one thousand years. Open any page, start anywhere, and you will feel the Majesty, Power and Beauty of this Divine Writ.

This Surah gives us brief narratives of several Prophets and their experiences. As per style of the Book, the Surah enfolds the Permanent Message, Concepts and Guidance for every human being on earth. The Qur’an frequently presents History, the Cosmos, and the human Psyche and Soma as evidences to its Authority and Authenticity.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

21:1 Closer draws to people the time of their reckoning, and yet they turn away stubbornly heedless of it.

21:2 Whenever a new Reminder comes to them from their Lord, they listen to it with playful amusement. (26:5).

21:3 With their hearts preoccupied with fleeting delights, the wrongdoers confer secretly, "Is he not just a human being like you? Will you yield to his spellbinding eloquence with your eyes open?"

21:4 The Prophet said, "My Lord knows every word that is spoken in the High and the Low. He is the Hearer, the Knower.”

21:5 “Nay,” they say, "Muddled dreams! Nay, he has but invented it! Nay, he is but a poet! Let him then bring us a miracle (as we have heard), like the ones that were given to Prophets of old!"

21:6 Not one of the communities before them which Our Law destroyed, believed (in their Messengers). Will these, then, believe?

21:7 (O Prophet) Before you We sent none but men to whom We granted Revelation. (Tell the deniers), “If you do not know this, ask the followers of previous Revelations.” (16:43).

21:8 We gave them not bodies that won't require food, nor were they immortal.

21:9 We always fulfilled Our Promise to them. We saved them and all those who were worthy to be saved according to Our Law and We destroyed those who had wasted their own “Self.”

21:10 O Mankind! Now We have revealed unto you a Book that is all about you and it will give you eminence. Will you not, then, use your sense? (21:24, 23:70, 43:43-44).

For, it is all about you. Will you not, then, use your sense? (21:24, 23:70, 43:43-44).

21:11 Our Law of Requital has dashed into fragments many nations because of their unjust systems and We replaced them with other people.

21:12 And as soon as they began feeling Our Mighty Requital, behold them fleeing from it! (7:182, 16:26).

21:13 (It was said) Flee not, but return to the good things of life you were given, and to your mansions, in order that you may be called to account. (How you amassed this wealth and luxury 102:8).

21:14 They said, “Ah! Woe to us! We did indeed wrong others and ourselves.”

21:15 And that cry of theirs did not cease until We made them as a field mown down, as silent as ashes. (36:28).

21:16 We did not create the heavens and the earth and all that is between them without Purpose. (11:7, 45:22, 53:31).

21:17 If We had wished to find a pastime, We could have found it in Our Presence, if such had been Our Will at all!

21:18 Nay, We hurl the true against the false, and it crushes it and verily falsehood has to vanish. It is only harmful for yourselves to fabricate falsehood.

(Some people conjecture that the Universe is a dream, a play or a mere shadow of the World of Ideas. But We have designed it such that the Reality advances and falsehood vanishes).

21:19 Unto Him belongs whoever is in the heavens and the earth. All creation dwells in His Dominion and none is ever too proud to obey His Laws, nor do they get tired.

21:20 They (extol His Glory) strive night and day towards the fulfillment of His plan and do not pause.

21:21 And yet, some people choose ‘gods’ from the earth thinking that systems devised by them can make the humanity rise.

21:22 If there were other gods besides God, there would have been chaos in both, the heavens and the earth. Glorified is Allah, the Lord of Supreme Control, above all that they contrive. (6:3, 16:51, 39:67, 3:84).

21:23 (The Ultimate Sovereignty, befits only Him.) He cannot be called to account for what He does, whereas they will be called to account.

21:24 And yet they choose deities instead of Him! Say, “Bring your evidence. This is the demand of those with me and this has been the demand of those who were with previous Prophets.” (23:117). Indeed, most of them do not recognize the Truth hence, they stubbornly turn away from it.

21:25 We sent no Messenger before you without having revealed to him, “There is no god but Me, therefore you shall worship Me alone.”

21:26 And some say, “The Beneficent has taken unto Himself a son. Glory to Him! Those whom they call His offspring are His servants raised in honor.

21:27 They exceed not what He has spoken to them, and they act by His Command.

21:28 He knows their future and their past. They cannot intercede, except that they may stand up as witnesses for those who have earned a bond of His Approval in the worldly life (19:87). And they stand in awe and reverence of His Glory. (6:15).

21:29. Any person who claims, “Behold, I have divine powers beside Him,” We reward him with Hell. Thus We repay the wrongdoers.

21:30 Are not the disbelievers willing to consider that the heavens and the earth used to be one solid mass that We exploded into parting (79:30) and We made out of water every living thing? (24:45). Will they not then (some day) believe? (Numerous celestial bodies came into being and started swimming along in their orbits (21:33, 36:40).

21:31 And We have set firm mountains on the earth, lest it sway with them (16:15). And We have made therein broad roadways so that they might find their way.

21:32 And We have rendered the sky a canopy well guarded. (The atmosphere in the Height keeps in safe balance the gases and temperature, and protects you from the incoming meteorites). Yet they turn away from the signs that these things point to!

21:33 And He it is Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. They swim along each in an orbit.

21:34 (All things in the Universe are but mortal). We have never granted everlasting life to any human before you. If you die, can they be immortal?

21:35 Every living being is bound to taste death. We test you through the evil and good aspects of things by way of trial. To Us must you return. (Life and death afford humans the opportunity to do good deeds and achieve eternal rewards 67:2)

21:36 (O Prophet) whenever the rejecters see you, they make you a target of their mockery, saying, "Is this the one who talks of your gods?" And yet, it is they who deny all mention of (the True God) the Beneficent.

21:37 Man is a creature of haste. I will show you more and more of My signs, but ask Me not to hasten.

21:38 And they say, “When will this promise be fulfilled, if you are men of truth?”

21:39 If those who are bent upon denial, but knew that they will not be able to repel the fire from their faces and from their backs, and they will not be helped!

21:40 Nay, but it will come upon them suddenly, that it will stun them. They will be unable to repel it, nor will they be given any more respite.

21:41 Indeed, (O Prophet) even before your time Messengers have been mocked, but in the end, the mockers were overwhelmed by the very thing they ridiculed (the Divine retribution).

21:42 Say, "Who guards you in the night and in the day from the Beneficent?" (It is His Mercy that He does not take you to task for every transgression 4:31, 16:61, 35:45). Yet, they stubbornly turn away from remembrance of their Sustainer.

21:43 Do they have gods who can shield them from Our Laws? Their perceived deities cannot even help themselves nor can they be defended against Our Laws.

21:44 Nay, We let these people and their ancestors enjoy the good things of life for a long time. Don't they see that Our Law visits the earth and We gradually reduce the land in their control? Can they prevail against Our Laws? (Don't they see that every day on earth brings them closer to the end? 13:41).

21:45 Say, "I warn you on the strength of Divine Revelation!" But the deaf to reason cannot hear the call, however often they are warned.

21:46 And if a breath of your Lord's retribution were to touch them, they would say, "Oh, woe unto us! Verily, we were wrongdoers!"

21:47 We will set up the Scales of justice on the Day of Resurrection, and no person will be wronged in the least. Though the good or evil be of the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it forth. We are Sufficient for reckoning and none can take account as We do. (99:7-8).

21:48 And, indeed, We gave Moses and Aaron the Criterion of right and wrong, and a Light and Reminder for those who wished to walk aright.

21:49 (For those) who stood in awe of their Lord even in privacy, and feared the approaching Hour of accountability.

21:50 Now this (Qur'an) is a Blessed Reminder that We have revealed. Will you then reject it? (After learning the consequence of those who had denied the Revelations unto Moses and Aaron)!

21:51 And, indeed, long before, We showed Abraham his direction and We were Aware of his potential.

21:52 He said to his father and his folk, "What are these images and statues that you sit around worshiping?"

21:53 They responded, "We found our ancestors worshipers of them."

21:54 He said, "Indeed you are in plain error as your ancestors were."

21:55 They said, "Are you telling us some serious truth or are you one of those jesters?"

21:56 He said, "Nay, your Lord is the Sustainer of the heavens and the earth, Who initiated them from nothing. I am of those who bear witness to this Truth (on the basis of reason)."

21:57 "And by Allah, I have planned to deal with your idols when you turn back and leave the temple". (You will see if they whom you believe to guard you can guard themselves or not).

21:58 Then he reduced them to fragments except the big one, so that they might turn to it. (37:88-98).

21:59 They said, "Who has done this to our gods? He must indeed be of the wrongdoers."

21:60 Some said, "We heard a youth talking about them; he is called Abraham."

21:61 The custodians of the temple conferred and said, "Then bring him before the people's eyes, so that they might bear witness."

21:62 (And when he came) they asked, "Is it you who has done this to our gods, O Abraham?"

21:63 Abraham grabbed the opportunity of driving home the point, "Whoever did it, did it. This is their chief. Ask them if they speak."

[Important note: As many commentators of the Qur'an, ancient and modern, that I am aware of, have mistranslated this verse simply for missing the punctuation after 'Fa'aluh'. They render the first part of the verse as, "This was done by the big one of them." And then they go into defending in futility Prophet Abraham against uttering a lie. But, "This is their chief" is in fact a new sentence.]

21:64 They were taken aback, withdrew themselves, thought and said to one another, "Verily, you yourselves are the wrongdoers." (You disregarded the security of the powerless idols).

21:65 They were utterly confounded in shame, lowered their heads and said to Abraham, "You know that they speak not."

21:66 Abraham said, "Do you then worship instead of Allah that cannot benefit you or harm you?"

21:67 "Unbecoming it is for you and condemnable are all that you worship instead of Allah! Will you, then, use your sense?"

21:68 The priesthood of the temple (in their vested interests) instigated the masses, "Burn him alive and uphold your gods if you are going to take any action!"

21:69 But We said, "O Fire! Be you cool, and security for Abraham." (The fire of their rage was cooled down in time 29:24-26, 37:88-89).

21:70 And whereas they schemed against him, We made them the true losers. (They failed to value a man of his stature).

21:71 And We rescued Abraham and (his nephew and close companion) Lot to the land that We blessed for all people. (They migrated from their homeland of Ur in Mesopotamia, today's Iraq, to Syria-Palestine that was blessed with a long line of Prophets).

21:72 We bestowed upon Abraham, a son Isaac and a grandson Jacob. We made all of them great benefactors of humanity as they addressed the inequities in human thought and behavior.

21:73 We made them leaders who set the standards of leadership. They guided people as We commanded, into doing collective good for the society, and to establish the Divine System with a Just Economic Order. They were true servants of Ours.

21:74 Later We commissioned Lot to Prophethood and gave him wisdom and knowledge. (After his best efforts failed to reform the community that indulged in abominations) We saved him from their wrath. Verily, they were a rebellious nation who were given into, and lost in, evil.

21:75 We brought Lot in unto Our Grace. He too was a man of quality.

21:76 The same goes for Noah long before. He called on Us, and We saved him, his household and followers from the great distress of persecution.

21:77 We delivered him from the people who rejected Our Commands. They were a people given to inequities and oppressing the weak and We caused all of them to drown.

21:78 And David and Solomon ruled in great justice. They gathered the straying sheep, the masses of their kingdom, when they were bent upon destroying their own crop of prosperity. We are Witness to their benevolent governance.

21:79 We gave Solomon great understanding of the affairs of the state, and each of them We endowed with wisdom and knowledge. We made the most powerful tribal leaders loyal to David, and they fully complemented his efforts. The strong tribe of At-Taeer and the common citizens were supportive of him. It was We Who did all these things.

21:80 We taught him the science of armor to protect you from each other’s foolhardy violence. Are you then thankful?

21:81 We made the gusting winds subservient to Solomon as his ships sailed to the land We had blessed. And of everything We are Aware. (When you discover some of Our Laws, you call it Science, and Solomon made good use of it).

21:82 We humbled the most rebellious tribes, and made them compliant to him. Some of them dived for him in the sea and carried out other duties, besides. But it was We Who kept watch over them. [We were for them (and are for you) the Guardians of the Laws of governance and science 34:13, 38:37].

21:83 And, Job called unto his Lord, “Affliction has befallen me, but you are the Most Merciful of the merciful (38:41)!” (He was going through the agony of being lost away from his folk).

21:84 We responded unto him and relieved his agony from which he suffered. We re-united him with his folk and his followers had doubled in the meantime. That was Grace from Us, and a thing to be commemorated by all those who serve Us.

21:85 Also remember Ishmael, Enoch and Ezekiel, all were among the steadfast.

21:86 And so We admitted them in Our Grace for they were men of quality.

21:87 And Zan-Noon, he of the great fish (Jonah of Ninevah), (disappointed with their persistent rejection) left his people in anger. He thought that since he was not violating any Command, We would not bring him to task. Then from the darkness of error he called, "There is no god but You! Limitless is Your Glory! Verily, I have done wrong!" (Jonah, in his best judgment, had migrated before the Divine Decree came 37:139, 68:48).

21:88 And so We responded to him and saved him from grief. Thus We save from grief those who believe in Our Laws.

21:89 And Zachariah called unto his Lord, O My Sustainer! Leave me not childless! However, I do realize that You will remain when all else has ceased to be! You are the Ultimate of the inheritors. (3:33, 19:5-7).

21:90 And so We responded to him, and bestowed upon him Yahya, after making his wife fit to bear him a child. And verily, they (parents and son) used to race in doing good works, and remembered Us in situations of hope or fear. And they were always humble before Us.

21:91 And remember her (Mary) who guarded her chastity (under very adverse circumstances). We breathed into her of Our Energy, and caused her, together with her son, to become a symbol of Our Grace unto all people.

[We breathe of Our Energy, the free will, into every human child (3:44, 19:16, 32:9). We made her and her son a sign that whereas humans (the Israelites) maligned them, We made them honorable, and that monasticism is not a Divinely ordained institution].

21:92 Verily, O Mankind! This community of yours is one single community, since I am the Sustainer of you all. So, serve Me alone! (23:52).

21:93 But people have torn their unity wide asunder, (forgetting that) unto Our Law and ultimately unto Us are they bound to return.

21:94 And yet, whoever works for the good of others believing in Our Value System, his or her efforts will never be disowned. Behold, We are recording it in their favor.

21:95 Hence, it has been unfailingly true of any community whom Our Law has annihilated, that they would never return to glory (unless),

21:96 And until Gog and Magog are let loose upon them and swarm down from every corner. (Imperialist nations run over and dominate them. And then after some passage of time the desire for freedom and glory germinates in their hearts once again 18:94).

21:97 The time of the True Promise is coming closer. The eyes of the rejecters will stare in horror, “Oh, woe unto us! We lived in slumber. Nay, we were only hurting our ‘Self’.”

21:98 They will be told, “You and those whom you served instead of Allah, are but the fuel of Hell; that is the destiny you chose to come to.

21:99 If your leaders had foresight, they would have saved themselves and their people from this fire. If they were really deities, they wouldn't have come here. But the leaders and their followers will abide therein.

21:100 Sobbing and wailing will be their lot therein; and nothing else will they hear.

21:101 (The upheavals of the Revolution would only be a smooth transition for) those who have been trying to create balance in the society and improving the lot of humanity. Behold, to them kindness and compassion has gone forth from Us. They will be far removed from there.

21:102 They will not hear the slightest sound thereof, while they enjoy an abode where they get all they desire.

21:103 The supreme horror will cause them no grief, since the angels (of peace, fulfillment, and delight) will welcome them, "This is your Day of triumph that you were promised."

21:104 On that Day We shall roll up the Sky as a written scroll is rolled up. Then, just as We initiated the first Creation, We shall create a new Universe. This is a Promise incumbent upon Us. Truly We shall fulfill it. (The earth will see a new Dawn. Top leaders, tyrants, and tycoons of wealth will lose their high empires of influence. It will be a whole new life for the inhabitants of the earth, united one community as they were once 2:213, 10:19, 14:48, 39:67).

21:105 And, indeed, after advising mankind, We laid it down in all the Books of Divine Wisdom that My able servants will inherit the earth.

21:106 Herein, behold, there is a clear Message for people who would truly serve God.

21:107 And thus, (O Prophet) We have sent you not but as a Mercy for the Worlds. (Mankind will become one Community through the Book revealed to you).

21:108 Say, "It has been revealed to me that your God is One God. Will you then surrender to Him?"

21:109 If they still turn away, then say, "I have conveyed the Message to all of you alike. But I do not know whether near or far is that which you are promised."

21:110 Verily, He knows all that is said openly, just as He knows all that you conceal.

21:111 And I know not whether this interval is a test for you or the merciful period of Respite."

21:112 Say, "My Lord! Help us establish Your Rule." And, "Our Lord is the Beneficent Whose help is sought against whatever falsehood you ever ascribe to Him."

## Surah 22 – Al-Hajj – The Pilgrimage

[Author's note] This is the 22nd Surah of the Qur'an. It has 78 verses. As usual this Surah embraces concepts and Commands in a beautiful diversity. The Qur'an maintains a unique literary

style that wherever we open the Book, we feel instantly connected. In my humble opinion, cover to cover reading with understanding of the Book of God twice in a whole lifetime enables us to enjoy its grandeur whenever and wherever we open it. Revisiting the Book for reference and consultation must go along regularly throughout life for our own good.

Pilgrimage to the Sacred Masjid of Makkah has been ordained for all humanity with its prime objective being to seek solutions of all human conflicts and attain universal unity. HAJJ does in fact mean ‘determination for a noble cause’.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

22:1 O Mankind! Be mindful of your Sustainer so that you may journey through life in blissful honor and security. (If you failed to bring the house of humanity to order), the Hour will quake the earth with awesome wars.

22:2 On the Day when you behold it (wars of such intensity that) even a nursing mother would forget her infant, and the pregnant would abort her fetus. And it will seem to you that all mankind is drunk, although they will not be drunk. But the Divine Requital is a tremendous thing.

22:3 And yet, among people are those who argue about Allah without attaining knowledge, and follow every rebellious satanic force.

22:4 For the rebellious desire it has been decreed that whoever befriends it, verily, it will mislead him and guide him to the retribution of the Flame.

22:5 O Mankind! If you are in doubt that humanity will one day stand at its feet, and that you will be resurrected back to life after death, consider the process of your own evolution. We have created you in stages: From dust, then from male and female gametes, then from a zygote, then from an embryo, shapely and first shapeless. We thus clearly explain things for you. The embryo and then the fetus stay in the womb until an appointed term according to Our Laws. Then We bring you forth as infants and carry you to maturity. While some of you die young, others live to the feeblest old age so that they know nothing after knowing much. (Resurgence of humanity can take place just as) you, O Prophet, see a dry barren land, but when We send down water on it, it vibrates with life and grows all kinds of beautiful plants.

[Recapturing the earlier stages of evolution, We initiated life from inorganic matter, the clay, then hydrated clay. Through it We brought forth the single life cell, the unicellular organism. Then We created the male and the female cells. Thus procreation came into play. Male and female gametes join, a clot, a little lump of flesh, turning into the embryo that ‘hangs’ in the womb. The embryo is partly formed and partly unformed, until it becomes the fetus and then assumes the final evident proportions. (For the origin of life on the planet and creation of the human being, herein are given some important references for the research minded reader: 4:1, 6:2, 6:38, 6:99, 7:11, 11:6, 11:61, 15:26, 21:30, 23:12-14, 24:45, 25:54, 30:20, 31:28, 32:7-9, 35:11, 36:77, 39:6, 40:64-67, 51:49, 53:45, 55:14, 71:14, 76:2-3, 86:5-7, 96:1-2)].

22:6 All this happens because Allah alone is the Ultimate Truth and He alone revives the dead and because He has Supreme Control over all things and events.

22:7 And know that the Hour is bound to come, beyond any doubt, and that Allah will indeed resurrect all who are in their graves. (And He will raise humanity onto their feet, just as He will raise

the dead from their state of disintegration whether in graves or in the oceans, in ashes, their scattered pieces sprayed about, or in the bellies of the fish and the birds).

22:8 And yet, among people are those who argue about Allah without attaining knowledge, guidance and without any light-giving Revelation. (22:3).

22:9 Turning away in pride to divert people from the Path of Allah. Disgrace is in store for them in this world, and on the Day of Resurrection We will make them taste the doom of burning.

22:10 Saying, “This is what you sent before with your own hands, for Allah is no oppressor of His servants.

22:11 And among people there is the one who serves Allah conditionally. If things go his way, he is content. But if some adversity touches him he turns on his face. (4:143). Thus he loses both, in this life and the life to come. That is the sheer loss.

22:12 He calls on, instead of Allah, that which neither can harm him nor benefit him. This is indeed the utmost one can go astray.

22:13 He calls unto him whose harm is nearer than his benefits; verily, an evil master, and an evil follower.

22:14 Verily, Allah will admit those who have attained belief and fulfill the needs of others, into Gardens beneath which rivers flow. This is Allah’s Intention, and so shall it be done.

22:15 If anyone thinks that Allah cannot help him in this world and in the life to come, let him reach out unto the heaven by any other means and thus try to make headway. And then let him see whether his approach will dispel the cause of his anguish.

22:16 And thus We have revealed the Qur'an in simple and plain verses. Allah Guides him who seeks Guidance.

22:17 And verily, as for those who have attained faith in this Divine Revelation, and those who follow the Jewish faith, and the agnostics, and the Christians, and the Zoroastrians and the idolaters, verily, Allah will decide between them when the Ultimate Truth will become manifest to them as humanity rises to its feet, and finally on the Day of Resurrection. Behold, Allah is Witness over all things and events. (2:136, 11:121, 22:55-56).

22:18 Don't you see that all things and beings in the heavens and in the earth, the sun and the moon, and the stars and the mountains, and the trees, and the animals, and a great many human beings pay adoration to Allah? And there are a great many human beings who make themselves worthy of Requital. And those whom the Divine Law shall disgrace, none can raise them to honor. For, Allah carries out all actions according to His Laws.

22:19 There are two contrary kinds of man who contend about their Sustainer. Those who are bent upon denying the Truth will have garments of flames they cut out for themselves, and burning despair will they cause to be poured on their top priorities. (104:6-7).

22:20 Causing all their inner arsenal and their exterior proclamations to melt away to naught.

22:21 Time is coming to restrain the criminals in rods and chains. (21:39, 57:25).

22:22 Whenever, in their anguish, they try to come out of it, they shall be returned to it, “Taste the doom of burning.”

22:23 Whereas, behold, Allah will admit those who have attained belief and helped others, into the Gardens with rivers flowing beneath. Therein (like royals) they will be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls, and where silk will be their garment. (18:31).

22:24 For they were willing to be guided towards the best concepts and the best ways of expression. Thus they were guided onto the path that leads to the Praised One. (QAUL includes concept and expression).

22:25 Verily, those who reject the Truth and bar people from the Path of Allah, and from the Center of Divine Ideology, the Sacred Masjid, must know that We have appointed it for all mankind alike. This is the Inviolable House of worship and security for the locals as well as the visitors (2:125). Whoever seeks to relegate it from Ideology to ritualism, directly or through side cannels, We will make him taste an awful doom. (Zulm = Relegation from the rightful place).

22:26 Behold! We pointed the site of the Sacred House (Ka’bah) to Abraham, saying, “Associate none with Me, and keep My House clean of human dogmas for those whose Divine Ideology of Monotheism will revolve around this Center for all mankind. Train the visitors to stand up for Truth, and bow to and prostrate before Divine Commands.” (2:125, 2:197, 3:95-97, 22:28-29).

22:27 “And announce to mankind the duty of Pilgrimage. They will come to you on foot, and on every kind of fast mount, coming from every far-away point on earth.”

22:28 So that they might see with their own eyes and experience what benefits the Divine System holds for them (in addition to uniting them in the common bond of humanity). And they shall commemorate Allah’s Name collectively during the specified days of Hajj; and over the livestock He has bestowed upon them. Then host one another with the livestock (to make the Congregation self-sufficient in the food resource). Eat and feed the distressed poor (regardless of whether they are in the congregation or elsewhere).

22:29 As they host one another, they shall consult to clean out their societies of individual and collective vices. And, design ways to fulfill their obligations as human beings. Then they shall walk around the Ancient House in their resolve.

22:30 All this is the purpose of Hajj. Whoever will honor these Directives and Limitations, it will be well for him in the Sight of his Lord. The livestock here is lawful food for you except for those already prohibited (2:173, 5:3, 6:145, 16:115). You shall avoid idol worship in any form, and abstain from bearing false witness. Avoid all things that bring your progress to a standstill. Lying, bearing false witness and flamboyant behavior are specifically forbidden at this congregation to prevent nullification of the grand objective (Rijs, Awthan, Zoor encompass all the stated meanings).

22:31 Turn to Allah alone, associating none with Him. For whoever ascribes partners to Allah, it is as if he has fallen from the sky and the birds snatch him or the wind blows him to far-off places.

22:32 Such is his state. And anyone who honors the symbols set up by Allah must know that mere honoring these symbols is of no value without righteousness of the heart.

22:33 (The livestock during Hajj are a symbol of devotion to God.) In them are benefits for you. They carry you and your loads and their only place for sacrifice or donation is this Ancient House.

22:34 And to every community We have ordained rites that they might extol the Name of Allah over the sustenance He gave them from the livestock. But your God is the One and Only God. Therefore, submit to Him alone (22:67). And give glad news to all those who are humble.

22:35 The truly humble are those whose hearts tremble with awe whenever Allah is mentioned (8:2). And they steadfastly bear whatever ill befalls them. And they constantly strive to establish and consolidate the Divine System and spend the wealth that We have given them, on their fellow human beings.

22:36 And the camels! We have appointed them among the symbols (of obedience) to Allah; in them is much good for you. (They carry you and your loads and then help you host one another). So mention Allah’s Name over them when they are drawn up in lines (for sacrifice). And after they have fallen to the ground lifeless, eat from their flesh, and feed the contented poor who beg not as well as the poor who ask. Remember that Allah has subjected these animals to you so that you may be practically grateful.

22:37 Neither their meat nor their blood reaches Allah. What reaches Him is your sincere devotion. He has thus subjected them to you that you manifestly establish the Greatness of Allah in the land for everyone to behold (the objective of Hajj). And to see how magnificent the Guidance is that He has bestowed upon you (2:185). And (O Prophet) give glad news to all benefactors of humanity.

22:38 Verily, Allah will defend the community of true believers. Behold, Allah does not love those who betray the Divine System ordained in this Book and thus show ingratitude for the magnificent Guidance they have received. (Hence, His Promise to defend will not apply to such people).

22:39 Permission to fight is granted to those against whom war is wrongfully waged. And Allah is indeed Most Powerful for their aid.

22:40 Those who have been evicted from their homes unjustly, for no reason other than saying, "Our Lord is Allah!" For, if Allah had not enabled people to defend themselves against one another, monasteries, and churches, and synagogues, and masjids, where the Name of Allah is oft mentioned, would surely have been destroyed. And Allah will certainly help those who help Him. For, Allah is Mighty, Powerful.

22:41 Those who, if We give them power in the land, establish Salat - the Divine System - set up the Just Economic Order of Zakat (in which wealth circulates freely to nourish every member of the society, and the basic needs of all individuals are taken care of). Their rule ensures that the Divine Moral Values are promoted, and what the Qur’an forbids, is discouraged. And in their governance all affairs are decided according to Allah's decrees (in the Qur'an 5:44).

22:42 (This is the framework of the Constitution that would finally take effect.) If they deny you (O Prophet), so did, before them, the people of Noah, Aad, and Thamud.

22:43 As did the people of Abraham, and the people of Lot.

22:44 And the dwellers of Midyan. And Moses was also denied (by Egyptians). And I gave the rejecters a period of respite, but then I took them to task. And how awesome was My denial of them!

22:45 And how many a township have We (Our Law of Requital) annihilated, for they oppressed people and violated human rights! And now they lie deserted, with their roofs caved in! And how many a well lies abandoned, and how many a castle in ruins that once stood high!

22:46 Have they never journeyed about the earth, letting their hearts gain wisdom, and causing their ears to hear? Indeed, it is not their eyes that become blind, but blind become their hearts that are in the breasts.

22:47 And so (O Prophet) they challenge you to hasten the doom, but Allah never fails to fulfill His Promise. A day of your Lord is like a thousand of your years. (32:5, 70:40). (Before your Lord, is the eternal Now. He is Above temporal and spatial bounds).

22:48 ("As you sow, so shall you reap", is a rock-solid Law, as evidenced by the history of the rise and fall of nations.) How many communities have gone before whom I gave respite although they were transgressors, but then My Law of Requital seized them. For with Me is the end of all journeys.

22:49 Say, "O Mankind! I am but a plain Warner to you."

22:50 And know that communities who attain belief and augment the human potential, shall be granted the protection of forgiveness and a most excellent provision (in both worlds).

22:51 Whereas those who strive against Our Messages seeking to defeat their purpose, they are destined to face the Insurmountable Barrier.

22:52 Yet whenever We sent any Messenger or Prophet before you, satanic people tried to confound the central aims of the Message in his very life-time. But Allah rendered null and void all the aspirations they had. And Allah makes His Messages clear in and by themselves, for Allah is All Knowing, Wise. (Satanic people then tried to alter his teachings after he passed on. Allah, then, sent another Messenger to restore the purity of His Messages 6:113. Until the Final Message was revealed and Allah Himself guaranteed its preservation.)

22:53 (Allah allows) these satanic people to advance their aspirations so that He might make this conspiracy a test for people and distinguish (the true believers in the Divine Revelation) from those who have a disease in their hearts. Verily, those who relegate the Divine Revelation in favor of human aspirations create great schism and sectarianism. (Zulm = Relegation from the rightful place). (2:53).

22:54 Those who are blessed with true knowledge, will recognize your Lord's Truth, accept it, and then settle it in their hearts and humbly submit to Him. Surely, Allah alone is the Guide of those who truly believe, to the Straight Path. (5:48, 15:19).

22:55 And those who disbelieve in the Divine Word (by failing to sort out the human aspirations), will remain in suspense until the Hour befalls them suddenly, or there comes to them the doom of a disastrous day.

22:56 On that Day all Dominion will visibly belong to Allah, and His Law and His Judgment will prevail in the human society as well (through this Divine writ). Then those who believe in this Divine Revelation and contribute to the advancement of the society, will be in the Gardens of Delight, in this world and in the Hereafter.

22:57 Whereas for those who are bent upon denying the Truth and belie Our Messages, there shall be a humiliating suffering in store.

22:58 And as for those who forsake the domain of evil in the Cause of Allah and are then slain or die, Allah will most certainly provide them a goodly sustenance. For, verily, Allah, He alone is the Best of providers.

22:59 Allah, the Knower, the Clement, will admit them to a place they will love.

22:60 Thus shall it be. As for him who responds to aggression only to the extent of the attack that was leveled against him, and is then again treacherously attacked, Allah will certainly help him. For Allah is Mild, Forgiving. (22:39).

22:61 This is because just as Allah merges the night into the day and merges the day into the night, (likewise, there are Divine Laws for fluctuation of people's fortunes) - And because Allah is Hearer, Seer.

22:62 Thus it is – Allah! He is the Ultimate Truth. That on whom they call instead of Him is sheer Falsehood, and because Allah, He alone is the High, the Great.

22:63 Have you not seen how Allah sends down water from the sky and then the earth becomes green? Verily, Allah is Unfathomable, Aware.

22:64 Unto Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And, verily, Allah is the Self-Sufficient Absolute, the Owner of Praise.

22:65 Have you not realized how Allah has made everything in the earth subservient to you? And the ships run upon the sea by His Command, and He holds back the celestial bodies and high atmosphere from coming down on to the earth except in accordance with His Law. Verily, Allah is Compassionate, Merciful to people.

22:66 And He it is Who gives you the gift of life, then He will cause you to die, and will then give you life again. Yet, ungrateful is man (not using the gift of life to its maximum potential).

22:67 We have let every community hold some rites that they observe (as a diversity of humanity 49:13). So, let them not involve you in their arguments, just call them to your Lord (2:177). For, behold, you (O Prophet) are indeed on the Right Way.

22:68 And if they argue with you, say, "Allah is best Aware of what you do."

22:69 Allah will judge among you regarding all your differences when humanity stands up to its feet, and finally on the Day of Resurrection." (2:213, 22:17, 22:56).

22:70 Do you not know that Allah is fully Aware of all that is in the High and the Low? All that, behold, is in the Divine Database. Verily, all this is easy for Allah.

22:71 And yet, they (who, seeing His Dominion of the Universe, claim to believe in Him, often) idolize instead of Allah that wherein He has placed no power, and they know nothing about them about them. (They blindly follow their ancestors' ways 10:39). There is no helper for those who relegate the reality to conjecture.

22:72 And when Our Messages are conveyed to them in all clarity, you can notice a denial in the faces of those who are bent upon rejecting the Truth. They would almost attack those who convey Our Messages to them. Say, “Shall I, then, tell you something worse than what you feel now? The Fire! Allah has promised it for those who are bent upon denying the Truth. How miserable a journey’s end!”

22:73 "O Mankind! Here is an example for you to listen and ponder! Behold, those beings you invoke instead of Allah, cannot create as much as a fly, even if they were to join all their forces to do so. And if a fly robs them of anything, they cannot get it back from it. Weak indeed is the seeker and weak indeed the sought.”

22:74 They esteem not Allah as He must be esteemed. In fact, Allah is the One, Mighty, All Powerful. (6:92, 39:67).

22:75 (In His Almightiness) Allah chooses Message-bearers from among the angels as well as from among mankind. Behold, Allah is All-Hearing, All-Seeing.

22:76 He knows all that is of the past, the present and the future. For, to Allah all things return (and go back to Him as their Source).

22:77 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Bow down and prostrate yourselves, and serve your Lord. And do good for the community so that you may achieve a blissful prosperity.

22:78 Strive hard in Allah’s Cause, with all the striving that is due to Him. It is He Who has elected you to carry the Message and has placed no hardship in religion, the creed of your father Abraham (2:143, 2:288). It is He Who has named you Muslims in the bygone days and now in this Revelation. That the Messenger may be a witness for you, and you be witnesses for all mankind! (You shall be the watchers over peoples that no community oppresses the other). So, establish the Divine System and set up the Just Economic Order, and hold fast unto Allah. He is your Lord Supreme, and how excellent is this Giver of support!

## Surah 23– Al-Mu’minun – The Believers

[Author's note] This is the 23rd Surah of the Qur'an. It has 118 verses. Brevity of verses, diversity of concepts, TASREEF; we will come across flowers of different aromas and colors as we stroll through this garden. Achieving wealth and rule in the earth are only the means to a nobler end, that is, to strive for the betterment of all mankind.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

23:1 Successful indeed are the believers.

23:2 Who humbly and whole-heartedly follow Divine Commands.

23:3 And who turn away from all that is senseless. (And they value time).

23:4 They are the setters up of the Just Economic Order of ZAKAT (in which wealth circulates in the society and nourishes every individual).

23:5 And who are mindful of their chastity. (17:32).

23:6 Not giving way to their desires with any but their spouses – that is, those whom they each other rightfully possess. Behold, they are free of all blame. (4:3, 24, 25. 24:32.)

[The very common rendering of this verse is extremely misleading. The ancient and modern scholars, to my knowledge, with the solitary exception of Allama Muhammad Asad in his THE MESSAGE OF THE QUR'AN, think that slave girls are being mentioned here. But, MA MALAKAT AYEMANUHUM is a common gender. Could the translators have said for a moment that it was OK for a bondman to have sex with his ‘owner’ woman and that too when she was married! The translators and exponents confined it to the females alone, since in the second century after the exalted Prophet, Muslims, under the influence of corrupted Kings and Imams, had begun retreating to the old ways of JAHILYAH (These verse succinctly validate this assertion: 6:112-113, 22:52-55, 25:31, 42:13-14, 45:16-18).

The word AW here is explanatory. AW = Or + That is + Namely + Call it + In other words. AW appears in this format instead of 'or' in many places in the Qur’an such as 23:6, 24:3, 25:62].

23:7 Those who cross these limits, are transgressors.

23:8 True believers are faithful to their trusts and to their pledges. (4:58).

23:9 They guard the Divine System. (24:41).

23:10 It is they who shall be the inheritors.

23:11 It is they who will inherit the Paradise wherein they shall abide (in both lives 7:43, 43:72, 70:33-34).

23:12 Now, indeed, We created the human being from the essence of clay. (22:5).

23:13 Then placed him as the male and female gamete (the product of conception) in a safe lodging.

23:14 Then We fashioned the gametes into zygote, a clot, then the hanging little lump, the embryo. Then We created bones within the embryonic lump, and then clothed the bones with flesh. (Thus We designed it into a fetus). And then We made it into a new creation (the human infant). So Blessed is Allah, The Best of creators. (33:7-9, 71:14).

23:15 And then, behold, after all this you are destined to die.

23:16 And then, behold, on the Day of Resurrection you are raised again. (84:19).

23:17 And, indeed We have created above you seven celestial orbits, and We are never unmindful of creation. (35:1).

23:18 And We send down from the sky water in due measure, and We lodge it in the earth. But, behold, We are Able to withdraw it.

23:19 And from it, We produce for you gardens of date-palms and grapes, wherein you have abundant fruit and you eat thereof.

23:20 As well as a tree that grows in abundance in (the lands adjoining) Mount Sinai, yielding oil and relish for all to eat.

23:21 And, behold, in the cattle too there is a lesson for you. We give you to drink of that which is in their bellies. You derive many benefits from them, and also consume their meat. (16:66).

23:22 On them and on the ships you are carried.

23:23 (We took care of your physical and mental needs.) And, indeed, We sent (Our first prophet), Noah to his people and he said, "O My people! Serve Allah. You have no god other than Him. Will you not then be mindful of Him and walk aright?"

23:24 But the leaders among his community who refused to acknowledge the Truth, said, "This is only a man like you who wants to become prominent among you. God could have sent angels if He willed (to convey a message to us). We never heard this from our forefathers.

23:25 He is nothing but a madman, so watch him for a while."

23:26 Said he, "My Lord! Help me, for they accuse me of lying."

23:27 Then We revealed unto him thus, “Build, under Our eyes and according to Our revealed instructions, the ark. Then, as Our Command comes to pass and the torrent gushes forth, take on board a couple each of the domesticated animals. As well as your family and followers except him against whom the Word has already gone forth (for his persistent denial). And do not plead with Me on behalf of the oppressors. Verily, they will be drowned.”

23:28 When you have settled in the ship along with your companions, say, “All Praise is due to Allah Who has saved us from the oppressors.”

23:29 And say, “O My Sustainer! Enable me to disembark with Your blessing. You are the Best Director of destinations!"

23:30 Behold, herein are Messages indeed, for Our Law keeps testing nations (for viability).

23:31 (And after those people of old) We gave rise to new generations.

23:32 And always We sent to them a Messenger of their own. (Without exception each of these Messengers said), "Serve Allah. You have no god other than Him. Will you not then be mindful of Him and walk aright?"

23:33 (And invariably) it was their leaders who refused to acknowledge the Truth and denied the Meeting in the Hereafter. Simply because We had granted them ease and plenty in their worldly life. Every time such people would say, "This is only a man like you who eats what you eat and drinks as you drink.

23:34 And indeed, if you obey a mortal like yourselves, you will surely be the losers!

23:35 Does he promise you that, after you die and become dust and bones, you shall be brought forth again?

23:36 Impossible, impossible indeed, is what you are promised!

23:37 There is nothing but our life of this world. We die and we live, and we shall not be raised again. (We see people dying and children being born every day).

23:38. He is just a man who has invented a lie about Allah. We are not going to believe in him."

23:39 (Whereupon the Messenger) would say, "My Lord! Help me, for they accuse me of lying."

23:40 (And Allah) would say, "In a little while they will be sorry!"

23:41 And then the Blast of (Our Requital) overtook them, justly and inevitably, and We made them as rubbish of dead leaves. (11:68). And so - away with people who wronged their own “Self”!

23:42 Then after them We brought forth other generations.

23:43 No nation can advance its term, nor delay it. (The Laws of the rise and fall of nations are unchangeable 7:34, 13:38,15:5).

23:44 We sent Our Messengers in succession. Whenever a Messenger came to a nation, they denied him. Our Law of Requital caused them to follow one another in disaster, and We made them history. And so - away with people who would not believe!

23:45 Then We sent Moses and his brother Aaron with Our Messages and a clear authority from Us.

23:46 To Pharaoh and his chiefs; but they showed arrogance. For, they were megalomaniacs.

23:47 And so they said, "Shall we believe in these two mortals like us whose nation are our slaves?"

23:48 Thus they denied them, and earned their place among the doomed.

23:49 For, indeed, We had given Moses the Scripture, that they might go aright.

23:50 And We made the son of Mary and his mother a symbol (of Our Grace). And, We gave them abode on an elevated resort, affording rest and security and fresh water springs. (As they migrated from Canaan after the attempted crucifixion.)

23:51 (This was a brief resume of some of Our Messengers. We had said to them), “O Messengers! Partake of the decent things of life and work for the betterment of humanity. Verily, I am Aware of what you do.

23:52 And verily, this community of yours is one community and I am your Sustainer. So, walk aright remaining conscious of Me.” (Since all Messengers were one Brotherhood unanimous in purpose, all mankind must consider one another as brothers and sisters).

23:53 But they (who claim to follow you O Messengers) have torn their unity wide asunder, piece by piece into disputing factions, each faction rejoicing in its beliefs. (30:32).

23:54 But leave them alone, lost in their ignorance until a time. (And the Truth will ultimately prevail 22:17, 22:55-57).

23:55 Do they think that, since We continue to provide them with wealth and children,

23:56 We are being swift to them with good things? Nay, but they perceive not.

23:57 (It is people who must hasten to do good and become worthy of good things.) Verily, those who are reverently conscious of their Lord,

23:58 And those who have conviction in the Messages of their Lord,

23:59 And those who do not associate anyone with Him,

23:60 And those who give (in the Cause of Allah of their wealth and person) whatever they can, and are still afraid (that they have not done enough and) because they have to return to their Lord,

23:61 It is they who race with one another to improve the quality of life for humanity, and it is they who are worthy of winning good things.

23:62 We do not hold responsible any person beyond his or her capacity. Our Commands are meant to expand your human potential. (2:286, 6:153, 7:42). And with Us is the Database that speaks the Truth (about what you can and cannot do). And none shall de wronged.

23:63 Nay, but their hearts are in ignorance of this Qur'an, and they are too busy doing other things and will keep doing so!

23:64 When We grasp their rich elite with retribution, they will moan and groan.

23:65 Groan not in supplication this day! You will surely, not be helped by Us.

23:66 My Messages were conveyed to you, but you used to turn back on your heels.

23:67 In arrogance, talking nonsense about these Verses like people telling fables far into the night.

23:68 Have they not pondered the Word? Is the Revelation something that never came to their remote forefathers, ( Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, and others)?

23:69 Or do they not recognize their Messenger, that they deny him? (10:16).

23:70 Or do they say, “There is madness in him?” Nay, he brings them the Truth, and most of them are haters of the Truth. (They want him to make compromises 10:15, 11:113, 17:74, 68:9).

23:71 And if the Truth had followed their whims (2:120), verily the heavens and the earth and all beings therein would have fallen into ruin. Nay, We have given them their Reminder, but they turn away from their Reminder that can give them eminence. (7:176, 21:10-24, 43:43).

23:72 (O Messenger) Do you ask them for any tribute? (They must know that) your Sustainer’s tribute is best, for, He is the Best of providers.

23:73 And, verily, you call them onto a Straight Path.

23:74 But, behold, those who disbelieve in the life to come are bound to deviate from that Way.

23:75 Even if We had mercy on them and relieved them of their suffering, they would obstinately persist in their transgression wandering to and fro.

23:76 And, indeed, We tested them through suffering, but they did not humble themselves before their Lord, nor implored Him.

23:77 Until when We open for them the gate of severe retribution, behold, they will be then completely demoralized.

23:78 (O Mankind) He is the One Who has created for you hearing and sight, and mind (the faculties to perceive and conceive). But, how seldom do you show gratitude by really using them!

23:79 And He it is Who has multiplied you on earth (as unity in diversity), and unto Him you will be gathered. (67:24).

23:80 And He it is Who gives life and death and to Him is due the alternation of Night and Day. Will you not, then, use your sense? (His Laws govern the life and death of individuals and nations, just as He alternates night and day).

23:81 Nay, they say what the people of the olden times used to say.

23:82 They say, "What! After we die and become mere dust and bones, shall we then, be raised again?

23:83 Indeed, this we have been promised, we and our forefathers, long ago. These are nothing but tales of the ancient."

23:84 Say, "Unto whom belongs the earth and all that lives thereon, if you happen to know?"

23:85 They will reply “Unto Allah." Say, “Will you not then, bethink?”

23:86 Say, "Who is the Sustainer of the seven heavens and Lord of the Tremendous Throne?" (16:49, 42:29).

23:87 They will answer, "Unto Allah (all this belongs)." Say, "Will you not then be mindful of Him?"

23:88 Say, "In whose hand is the mighty Dominion over all things, and who protects, while against Him there is no protection? - If you happen to know the answer."

23:89 They will reply, "Unto Allah (all that belongs)." Say, "How can you then belie yourselves?”

23:90 Nay, We have given them the Truth, yet, behold, they are intent upon lying to themselves. (Acceptance of His Rule in their lives hurts their vested interests 21:20, 23:70).

23:91 Never did God take unto Himself a son, nor was ever any god beside Him. For, had there been any, each god would have taken along its creation and overcome the other. Allah is High Above all that they allege.

23:92 Knower of the Invisible and the Visible! And Exalted He is above the partners they attribute to Him.

23:93 (The believer should) pray, “My Lord! If you let me witness (in my life-time) what the wrongdoers are warned against,

23:94 My Lord! Then let me not be among them.” (8:25).

23:95 For, behold, We are Able to show you that against which they are warned.

23:96 (Nevertheless), counter evil with something that is better. We are best Aware of what others say and do.

23:97 And say, “My Lord! I seek refuge with you from the prompting of the satanic forces of dissension (in my heart and among the enemy)."

23:98 And I seek refuge with you, my Lord, lest they come near me”.

23:99 (Those who keep belying themselves), when death comes to one of them, say, “My Lord! Send me back” (23:74, 90).

23:100 That I may do good works in that I left behind! But, nay! It is a mere word of no significance that he speaks. And behind them is a barrier until the Day they are raised. (39:58).

23:101 And when the Trumpet is blown, there will be no relationships between them that Day, nor will they ask about one another.

23:102 Then those whose scales (of good deeds) are heavy; they are the successful.

23:103 And those whose scales are light, it is they who have wasted their “Self”, and abide in hell.

23:104 Their faces in agony as the fire burns them therein.

23:105 (And it will be said), “Were not My Revelations conveyed to you, and did you not deny them?”

23:106 They will say, “Our Lord! Our misfortune overwhelmed us, and we became a people astray.

23:107 Our Lord! Bring us out of here, and if we return to our old behavior, then indeed we shall be wrongdoers.”

23:108 He will say, “Dump yourselves therein and plead not with Me.”

23:109 “Behold, there were among My servants such who used to say, ‘Our Lord! We have come to believe, so forgive us and bestow Grace upon us, for, You are the Best of the merciful.’

23:110 But you ridiculed them, to the extent that it made you forget My Message while you were laughing at them.

23:111 This Day I have rewarded them for their patience. They verily are the triumphant.

23:112 He will ask, “What number of years have you spent on earth?”

23:113 They will say, “We stayed a day or part of a day. But ask those who keep count.”

23:114 He will say, “You stayed only a little, if you had only realized then!”

23:115 Do you think that We have created you without purpose, and that you will not be brought before Us?”

23:116 Know that Allah is Exalted, the King, the Truth. There is no god but He, the Lord of the Honored Throne.

23:117 Hence, anyone who calls upon gods besides Allah, has no evidence of it. And his account rests with his Lord? Verily, such deniers of the Truth will not attain the ultimate prosperity. (23:1).

23:118 And say, “My Lord! Grant me the protection of forgiveness absolving my imperfections and bestow Grace, for You are the Best of the merciful.”

## Surah 24 – An-Noor – The Light

[Author's note] This is the 24th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 64 verses. The Qur’an is the Beacon of Light that shines on the path of individuals and nations when they turn it on. This Surah gives us the Rules of Conduct in our society, explaining social behavior between men and women. As always it embraces several golden concepts. The Surah derives its name from the glorious title of

the Qur'an. Allah calls the Book "An-Noor, the Light". The preamble of this Surah is unique since it immediately addresses some very important social problems.

Note: The ‘hadithized’ translations and explanations succumb to a fabrication that names a highly honorable lady, making up a long, malicious and wicked story, while the Qur’an does not mention any particular person as the subject of slander at all. Any events safe-guarded by this Divine Revelation are meant to guide us in knowledge and wisdom and are, therefore, timeless in their import.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

24:1 This is a Surah that We have sent down with a decree of Law. Clear Commandments have been given in it for you to bear in mind.

24:2 The adulteress and the adulterer, flog each one of them with a hundred stripes. And let not compassion sway you in their case from carrying out Allah’s Law, if you believe in Allah and the Last Day. And let a group of believers witness the penalty. [JALDAH (from skin) implies that the lashes must be light to impact the body no more than the skin. And the presence of a group of believers clearly indicates the punishment as a means of deterrence and not torture. Nowhere does the Qur’an ordain the barbaric punishment of stoning to death anyone for any crime. See for Lewdness - 4:15, 25. Punishment as deterrent - 5:38. Capital punishment for rape - 33:60:61].

24:3 The adulterer couples with none but an adulteress who worships her desire. And with the adulteress none couples but the adulterer who worships his desire. And it is forbidden to the believers. (24:26, 45:23).

[Fornication and adultery are a form of idol worship for, such people submit to their desires. The word AW here is explanatory. AW = Or + That is + Namely + Call it + In other words. AW appears in this format instead of 'or' in many places in the Qur’an such as 23:6, 24:3, 25:62. Nikah, in the lexicon, applies to genuine wedlock as well as to sexual relations between a man and a woman outside wedlock, depending on the context. The very common rendering of this verse to the effect that an adulterer is allowed to marry only an adulteress or idolatress, and vice versa, is absolutely erroneous and contrary to the Big Picture of the Qur’an which lays great emphasis on reform and forgiveness. And it defies all sense. Whereas many translators have maintained that such men and women will end up marrying their like. This is obviously the result of not bearing in mind the meaning of AW and Nikah, and going against common sense. Finally, the Book of Allah does not downgrade people once they have repented or received penalty. Oh, yet another point! After painting an X-rated scenario of Madinah as if adultery/fornication was going on right and left and coming to public knowledge, in the very life-time of the exalted Prophet, the Imams of the old come up with a horrible joke. They insult Hazrat Ali that he decreed for an adulterer to receive a hundred stripes to fulfill the Command in the Qur'an, and then stoned him to death to fulfill the command of Hadith!

The so-called Imams also contend that while an unmarried person will receive lashes, a married person must be condemned to death by stoning! Did they not prefer their own whims to the Word of God? ]

24:4 (Protecting the honor of a woman is extremely important.) Those who accuse chaste women and then fail to produce four witnesses (the court of law shall order) eighty lashes to such accusers

(24:23). And, never in the future accept their testimony. They indeed have drifted away from morality. (Fasiq = One who drifts away from –from what? Will depend on the context).

24:5 Except those who afterward repent and reform. For, verily Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

24:6 As for those who accuse their wives, but have no witnesses except themselves, then let the accuser call Allah four times to Witness that he is indeed telling the truth.

24:7 And the fifth time, that Allah may reject him if he is telling a lie.

24:8 But punishment shall be averted from her if she calls Allah four times as Witness that he is indeed telling a lie.

24:9 And the fifth time, that Allah may reject her if he is telling the truth. (The court shall then punish neither the husband nor the wife and it infers that the same procedure applies if the wife accuses her husband).

24:10 And were it not for Allah's Favor upon you and His Grace upon you, and that Allah is Clement, Wise,

24:11 Verily, there are numerous among you who would slander others. Deem not that this (Law of eighty lashes and calling Allah to Witness) is harsh for you. Nay, it is good for you since every slanderer will have to account for what he earns through this dragging violation of human dignity. In the Divine System an awesome punishment awaits anyone who magnifies the slander (trying to make it believable).

24:12 Why do not the believing men and believing women, whenever such a rumor is heard, think the best of one another and say, "This is an obvious falsehood?"

24:13 Why do they not (demand of the accusers that they) produce four witnesses? For, if they do not produce such witnesses, it is the accusers who are, in the Sight of Allah, liars indeed.

24:14 And were it not for the Favor and Grace of Allah upon you, in this world and in the Hereafter, an awful suffering would have afflicted you for the slanders you fall for.

24:15 When you welcome slander on your tongues and utter with your mouths something of which you have no knowledge, thinking it is a light matter, know that in the Sight of Allah it is an awful thing.

24:16 (And once again), why do you not say, whenever you hear such a rumor, "It is not befitting for us to talk about it. Glory to You (Our Lord), this is a monstrous calumny."

24:17 Allah admonishes you that you repeat not the like thereof ever, if you are indeed believers.

24:18 And Allah clearly explains His Verses for you. Allah is the Knower, the Wise.

24:19 Verily, those who love to see immorality spread among the believers, shall be punished (by a court of law) in this world and in the life to come. For, Allah knows and you know not.

24:20 Had it not been for the Favor of Allah and His Mercy unto you, and that Allah is Compassionate, Merciful, (your social fabric would have been undone).

24:21 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Follow not the steps of satanic people in the community. Anyone who follows Satan's steps, should know that he advocates evil and vice. Had it not been for the Favor of Allah, and His Grace unto you, none of you could have grown in goodness. Thus it is - but anyone can develop the "Self" (attain Self-actualization) by following Allah's Laws (given in the Qur'an). Allah is Hearer, Knower (Most Perceptive of your psychosocial needs).

24:22 (Development of the personality takes place by respecting the Divine Moral Values and helping people with your wealth and person 2:232, 4:49, 9:103, 24:21, 24:30, 53:32, 91:9-10, 92:18). Let not those among you who have been blessed with resources and ease of life ever stay behind in spending on:

- Their families,
- Relatives,
- Those who have lost their jobs,
- Whose running businesses have stalled,
- Whose hard earned income is insufficient to meet their needs, and
- Those who have forsaken the domain of evil or persecution in the Cause of Allah.

Let them pardon and overlook the imperfections of the needy. Listen! Do you not love that Allah should forgive you, absolving your imperfections? Thus it is - Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

24:23 But, verily, those who accuse chaste women, mentally preoccupied, believers in Divine Moral Values, shall be rejected from the Grace of Allah in this world and in the life to come. And awesome suffering awaits them. (For eighty lashes from the court see 24:4).

24:24 (Suffering) on the Day when their tongues and their hands and their feet will testify against them about all that they did. (And a time will come when methods of investigation will become far advanced).

24:25 On that Day Allah will pay them their just due, and they will come to know that Allah! He is the Manifest Truth.

24:26 Evil women keep company with evil men, and evil men keep company with evil women. Likewise, men and women of good character are companions to one another (9:71, 112). The latter are innocent of whatever people might say about them. For them is the absolution of their imperfections and honorable provision.

24:27 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Enter not the houses other than your own until you have obtained permission and greeted their folk with peace. This is better for all of you if you bear in mind.

24:28 And if you find no one in the home, do not enter it until permission has been given to you. And if you are asked to go back, then go back. This will be most befitting for your "Self". Allah is Knower of the actions that strengthen or enfeeble your personality.

24:29 There is no blame on you if you enter vacant houses in which some of your property is placed. Allah knows what you do in public and in private.

24:30 Tell the believing men to lower their gaze, and guard their modesty. This helps them grow in character. Verily, Allah is Aware of what they do.

24:31 And tell the believing women to lower their gaze, and guard their modesty. That they should not display their beauty and ornament beyond what is decently and spontaneously apparent in daily lives. Hence, let them cover their bosoms with their sash (Dupatta). And let them not display their beauty in the presence of anyone other than their husbands or fathers or husbands' fathers, or their sons or their husbands' sons, or their brothers, or their brothers' sons or sisters' sons, or their womenfolk, or their close dependents and attendants free of sexual desires. Or children who know nothing of women's privacy; and they should not strike their feet so as to reveal their hidden beauty and ornaments. And, turn to Allah together, O Believers, in order that you may succeed (in establishing a benevolent society 33:59).

24:32 And marry the single among you, (whether they are widowed, divorced or bachelors). And those who are still being kept as slaves, male or female, such of them as are fit to marry. If they are poor, Allah will enrich them with His Bounty, for, Allah is of Infinite means, All-Knowing.

24:33 And those who cannot find a match must keep chaste until Allah grants them sufficiency out of His Bounty. And if any of the male and female slaves desires a deed of freedom, write it out for them if you ensure good for them by way of rehabilitation. (4:5-6). Give them from Allah's wealth that He has given you. Never hold your slave maidens for worldly gains from preserving their chastity by marrying if they so desire, lest they resort to lewdness. If anyone forces them, then after this compulsion Allah will be Forgiving, Merciful to them. (And He will hold the one who forces them, accountable).

24:34 And indeed, We have revealed to you Messages clearly showing the Truth, and many a lesson from the generations before you. Herein is Enlightenment for those who wish to journey through life in blissful honor and security.

24:35 Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth. (And the Qur'an is the Light of Allah 5:15, 42:52). The example of His Light (the Qur'an) is that of a lamp that is placed inside a niche enclosed in glass that shines like a radiant star. This lamp is kindled from a blessed tree - olive - neither of the East nor of the West. Its Light issues forth in all directions. The oil glows by itself even though no fire has touched it. Light upon Light. Allah guides to His Light anyone who seeks guidance. And Allah sets forth allegories for mankind. And Allah does know all things (and how to make you understand that light needs no aid to show itself 20:51, 41:42).

24:36 This Light-giving Lamp glows in houses that Allah has caused to be exalted, that His Name be celebrated in them. In them He is glorified in the mornings and in the evenings. (The dwellers therein strive to raise His Name).

24:37 (These are not the communities of monks but) they are such whom neither trade nor sale can divert from the remembrance of Allah. They keep striving to consolidate the Divine System and set up the Just Economic Order of Zakat in the society. They are people filled with awesome consciousness of the Day when hearts and eyes will be horrified. (50:20).

24:38 That Allah may reward them for the best of what they did and increase for them His Bounty. For, Allah grants sustenance of mind and body according to His Laws, beyond count. (2:261).

24:39 But as for those who reject the Message, their deeds are like a mirage in the desert. The thirsty one supposes it to be water till he comes unto it and finds nothing. However, he does meet Allah's Law of Requital to compensate for his deeds. And Allah is Swift at taking account.

24:40 Or total darkness in the midst of a deep ocean, with waves upon waves and a thick cloud above - darkness upon darkness. When he holds out his hand, he can barely see it. Allah's Law does not give light to him who disregards His Light.

24:41 Do you not realize that Allah, He it is Whom all beings in the heavens and the earth glorify, and the birds, with their wings outspread, as they fly in columns. All of them know their SALAT and TASBEEH (mission and strife). Allah is Aware of what they do to fulfill His Plan.

24:42 And unto Allah belongs the Dominion of the heavens and the earth, and unto Allah is marching everything.

24:43 Have you not seen how Allah drives the clouds, then gathers them, then makes them layers, and then you see the rain coming forth from them? He sends down, from the heights, hail and loads of snow to cover some ground and leave some uncovered, according to His Laws. The flashes of lightning and the brightness of the snow dazzle the sight, all but snatching it away. (2:19-20).

24:44 Allah causes the revolution of the night and the day. Herein indeed is a lesson for men and women of vision and understanding. (Of straying and guidance, of death and life, of calculating time, of rest and work etc.)

24:45 And Allah has created every living creature from water. (Life began in water 21:30). Some of them crawl on their bellies, some walk on two legs, and some walk on four. Allah creates things with a Purpose and according to His Laws. He has Supreme control over all things and events and verily, Allah is the Appointer of due measure of all things.

24:46 Verily, We have sent down Messages clearly showing the Truth, but Allah guides onto a Straight Path him who wishes to be guided.

24:47 For, some people say, "We believe in Allah and the Messenger and we obey." Then after that a faction of them turns away. Such are not believers.

24:48 And so it is that whenever they are called to Allah and His Messenger to judge between them, some of them turn away.

24:49 However, if the truth is on their side, they come to him in full submission.

24:50 Is there disease in their hearts? Or do they bear any doubts? Or do they fear that Allah and His Messenger might deal unjustly with them? They (who wish to obviate justice) are themselves unjust.

24:51 Whenever invited to Allah and His Messenger to judge in their affairs, the true believers say, "We hear and we obey." They are the ones who will ultimately prosper.

24:52 Whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger, and fears violating Allah's Commands, and walks aright, such indeed are the triumphant.

24:53 Whereas there are some who swear by Allah solemnly that, if you order them, they will go forth to any mission. Say, “Swear not! Obedience is virtuous. Verily, Allah is Aware of all you do."

24:54 Say, "Obey Allah and obey the Messenger - the Central Authority. But if you turn away, remember that he is only responsible for the duty placed on him, and you for the duty placed on you. If you obey him, you will go aright. The Messenger’s duty is only to convey the Message clearly."

24:55 Allah has promised that those of you peoples who will believe in the Divine Laws and strengthen human resources, He will surely make them rulers in the earth - Just as He granted rule to the previous nations (28:6, 33:27). He will surely establish for them the System of life that He has approved for them, and will replace their fear with peace and security. All this because they serve Me alone. They ascribe no partner to Me. But all who, after this, deny these Laws will drift out (of the community of living nations. The ‘belief’ in this verse does not pertain to any dogmas and tenets, but to the realization that the entire Universe is operating under the unchangeable Physical Laws of One Supreme Authority, thus providing the basis for all Science and Technology).

24:56 Hence, (O Believers) establish and consolidate the Divine System, set up the Just Economic Order of Zakat, and obey the Messenger. (The eternal Messenger now is the Final Revelation of Allah). That is how you will flourish in the world as the fetus flourishes in the mother's womb. (Rahm = Womb).

24:57 And think not that the rejecters of the Divine Laws can escape in the earth. Fire shall be their home (in both lives), and it is indeed a miserable abode.

24:58 (Your social mannerism begins at home.) O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Let your servants and children who have not yet come of age ask your permission before coming in to see you on three occasions: Before you engage in your assignments at dawn, at noon when you are resting with light clothes, and after you have completed your assignments at night. These are your three times of privacy. At other times it is not wrong for you or for them to move about freely, attending to one another. In this way, Allah makes clear to you the revelations, for, Allah is All Knowing, Wise.

24:59 And when the children among you come of age, let them ask your permission every time just as those who have grown up before them (24:27). Thus Allah makes His revelations clear for you. Allah is Knower, Wise.

24:60 And the elderly women who have no interest in getting married, there is nothing wrong for them if they lay aside their outer garments in such a way as not to show adornment (24:31, 33:33). Even so, it is best for them to maintain modesty. Allah is Hearer, Knower.

24:61 (Feeding of the disabled must be a matter of priority in your society.) There is no blame on the blind, nor is there blame on the crippled, nor there is blame on the sick or handicapped, to eat

from your houses. Just as there is no blame on you for eating at your own homes, or your fathers' homes, or your mothers' homes, or your brothers' homes, or your sisters' homes, or your paternal uncles' homes, or your paternal aunts' homes, or your maternal uncles' homes, or your maternal aunts' homes, or the homes you manage and hold the keys of, or the home of a friend. You do nothing wrong by dining together or apart. But whenever you enter houses, salute one another with a blessed, goodly greeting from Allah. Thus Allah makes clear the revelations for you, so that you may understand (the goodness in them).

24:62 Only those are true believers in Allah and His Messenger who do not leave without permission when they are with him in a community meeting. Those who ask permission are the ones who believe in Allah and His Messenger. So when they ask your permission (O Prophet) in order to handle some of their affairs, grant them permission to whomever you can. Remember (their welfare during their absence) asking forgiveness for them, for Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

24:63 Deem not the Messenger's summons among you as your calling one of another (62:9). Allah knows those of you who sneak away under shelter of flimsy excuses. And let those who conspire to evade his orders beware of a consequent tribulation or an awful retribution.

24:64 Absolutely, unto Allah belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth (53:31). He knows your condition (capabilities, limitations, intentions and actions. He knows where you stand). The Day when all people return to Him, He will make them truly understand what they were doing in life. Allah is the Knower of all things and events.

**Surah 25 – Al-Furqan – The Criterion**

[Author's note] This is the 25th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 77 verses. Allah and His Messenger warn us against ignoring the Qur'an, for our own good. Al-Furqan means the "Criterion between the Right and the Wrong" as well as 'The Statute Book'.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

25:1 Most Blessed is He Who has revealed to His servant, the Criterion of the right and the wrong so that to the entire world it might be a warning.

[And, hence, the Prophet, with his conduct well-preserved in the Qur'an, shall be a Warner to all peoples anywhere and at all times 6:19, 7:158, 21:107. No Prophet, Messenger or Apostle will be needed or sent after him]

25:2 (The Sender of this Criterion is) He to Whom belongs the Kingship of the heavens and the earth. He has chosen no son, nor does He have a partner in His Kingship. He it is Who creates all things in precise design and gives them the potential to become what they are meant to be.

25:3 And yet, there are people who, instead of Him, choose deities and masters that create nothing and are themselves created. And they have it not within their power to avert harm or cause benefit even to themselves. They have no control over death and life, nor can they raise the dead (people and nations).

25:4 Those who are bent on denying the Truth say, “This (Qur’an) is a lie that he has devised with the help of other people.” Wrong is what they do and falsehood is what they utter.

25:5 And they say, “Fables of ancient times which he has written down as they are dictated to him morning and evening.”

25:6 Say, “He Who knows all the mysteries of the heavens and the earth has revealed it to me. He is Forgiving, Merciful.” (He absolves imperfections and nourishes all things in the Universe).

25:7 Yet they say, “What sort of Messenger is this who eats food and goes about in the market-places? Why is not an angel sent down to him to act as a Warner together with him?”

25:8 “Or why has not a treasure been bestowed on him, or why has he not a garden for enjoyment?” The wicked say, “You are but following a man bewitched!”

25:9 See what sort of examples they apply to you! They have strayed far too much to find a way.

25:10 Blessed is He Who can Will for you far better than all that, Gardens with flowing rivers and assign you beautiful palaces.

25:11 Nay, but they deny the oncoming Hour, and for those who deny the oncoming Hour, We have readied a Flame.

25:12 When the Flame sees them from afar they will hear its rage and its roar.

25:13 And when they are flung into a narrow space linked together in chains, they will plead for extinction there and then. (Distress of Hell is constricting while the Bliss of Paradise is Spacious (3:133).

25:14 This Day plead not for a single extinction, but plead for repeated (revivals and) extinctions. (Therein they merely survive, neither living nor dying 14:17, 20:74, 87:13).

25:15 Say, “Is this better or the Garden of Immortality which is promised to those who walk aright? That is their reward and the ultimate destination.”

25:16 Therein abiding, they have all that they desire. A promise from your Sustainer that must be fulfilled and it is worth coveting.

25:17 And on the Day when He summons them, together with the idols they had set up besides Allah, He will say to the idols, "Did you mislead these servants of Mine, or did they go astray from the Way on their own?"

25:18 They will say, "Glory to You! It was not befitting for us that we should take for protecting masters others than Yourself. But You did bestow on them and their ancestors, good things in life to the extent that they disregarded the Reminder and became a lost folk.”

25:19 It will be said to the idolaters of all forms, “Now your idols have proved you liars in what you say. So you cannot avert your penalty nor get help.” And whoever among you wrongs others and thus wrongs himself, We shall make him taste of the great torment!

25:20 And the Messengers whom We sent before you (O Prophet) were all mortals who indeed ate food and went about in the market-places. It is thus that We cause you human beings to be a means of testing one another. Are you able to pass this test with patience? For, your Sustainer is All Seeing. (Human beings are expected to evaluate the Message by way of REASON, and not by way of miracles and supernatural phenomena 12:108).

25:21 Those who do not believe that they are destined to meet Us, say, "Why do not angels come down to us, or Why do we not see our Lord?" Assuredly, they think too highly of themselves and they are uttering a gross insult.

25:22 Yet on that Day when they shall see the angels, it will not be a pleasant news for violators of human rights who used to thrive on others' toil. They will exclaim, "Can there be a barrier between the angels and us?"

25:23 And We will look at the deeds they have done, and will make their work scatter like ashes and dust.

25:24 Whereas on the same Day those who have earned the Paradise, well is their abode with fairest places for rest and repose, and good news upon good news will be theirs.

25:25 The Day the heaven with the clouds will be rent asunder, angels will be sent down, a grand descent in ranks.

25:26 On that Day it will become obvious to all that the Sovereignty belongs to the Most Gracious alone. Hence, a Day of distress it will be for all those who had been rejecting the Truth.

25:27 When the Day comes, the transgressor will bite his hands in anguish, exclaiming, "Oh, I wish I had taken a Path with the Messenger!"

25:28 "Oh, woe unto me, I wish I hadn't taken so-and-so for a friend!"

25:29 "Indeed he led me away from the Reminder after it had come to me. Ah, the Satan is always man's deserter in the hour of need."

25:30 And the Messenger will say, "O my Lord! These are my people, the ones who had disabled and made this Qur'an of no account." (MAHJUR = They had immobilized it like villagers who bind a cow by tying her front foot to her horn).

25:31 Thus have we made for every Prophet enemies among the guilty, those who have been used to thriving on the fruit of others' toil. (6:112, 22:52-54). Yet, Your Lord is Sufficient for a Guide and Helper. (The Divine Message being a great Equalizer of humanity strikes at the vested interests of the exploiters).

25:32 Now they who are bent on denying the Truth ask, "Why has not the Qur'an been revealed to him all at once?" So it has been! (It has all been revealed upon the Prophet's heart in the Night of Ruling 97:1). For, in order to strengthen your heart We have already arranged it in the Right Order. And We have caused you to convey it to people in stages, step by step. 73:4).

25:33 And no question do they bring to you but We bring to you the Truth and the best explanation. (We reveal to you the best TAFSEER, the explanation of the Qur'an from within itself).

25:34 Those who will be gathered prone on their faces to Hell, it is they who will be worst in station, and as to the Path, they are most astray.

25:35 Recall that We indeed gave Moses the Scripture, and appointed his brother Aaron as minister to him.

25:36 Then We said, "Go you both to the people who defy Our Laws!" Then We annihilated them(the deniers), a complete annihilation.

25:37 And Noah's folk: When they had denied the Messengers (Denying him was denying the eternal Message of Allah), We caused them to drown and made them a symbol for all mankind. For, We have readied an awful doom for all who do wrong.

25:38 And (Our Law also struck) Aad and Thamud, and the people of Ar-Rass, and many generations in between. (The people of Ar-Rass used to dig deep wells, and irrigate their flourishing crops. They lived in the current province of Al-Qaseem in the Central Arabian Peninsula. Historically they had thrown their Messenger in a well, and persisted with their feudal system).

25:39 Each of them We had warned with examples, and each of them We brought to total ruin.

25:40 And indeed they have passed by the township (Sodom) that was rained with a miserable rain. Have they never seen it with eyes of the heart? But nay, they expect not to be raised again. (They do not believe in the Law of Requital and deem that such things happen only by chance).

25:41 Hence, whenever they see you, they make you a target of their mockery saying, "Is this the one whom Allah has sent as a Messenger?

25:42 He would have led us far away from our gods if we were not staunch to them." They will know, when they see the doom, as to who is more astray from the Path.

25:43 Have you seen him who has taken as god his own desire? Can you be an advocate responsible for him?

25:44 Or do you think that most of them really hear and use their reason? Nay! they are but like cattle. Nay, they are farther astray. (The cattle at least follow the Divine Laws instinctively).

25:45 Are you not aware of your Lord by His Works? – How He spread the shade. And if He Willed, He could have made it still! Then We have made the sun its pilot. (He could have designed the Solar System differently with the earth remaining stationary).

25:46 And then We gradually withdraw it to Us, a gradual withdrawal.

25:47 And, He it is Who makes night a robe for you, and sleep a rest, and makes every day to be a resurrection.

25:48 And, He is the One Who sends the winds, glad news of His coming Grace, and We send down pure water from the sky.

25:49 That We may give life with it to a dead land, and We provide drink for Our creations, a great many animals and human beings.

25:50 And verily, many times We have repeated all this to mankind, so that they might bear in mind. Yet most people refuse to be anything but ungrateful (for such Light-giving Guidance).

25:51 Now had We so Willed, We could have continued to raise up a Warner in every single community. (But, time has now come for the Eternal, Universal Message, the Qur'an 25:1).

25:52 Hence, (O Prophet) Disregard the likes and dislikes of the rejecters, but strive hard against them by means of this, with utmost striving. (Jihadan Kabira = The Great Jihad by means of this Qur'an).

25:53 And He it is Who has given freedom of movement to the two kinds of great bodies of water; one is palatable and fresh, the other salt and bitter. Yet, He has made a barrier between them, a partition that is not to be passed. (35:12). (Please see 18:60 for two streams in a different implication).

25:54 And He it is Who has created the human being from this very water, (21:30, 24:45) and then He has established relationships by lineage and by marriage, for, your Lord is the Designer of all things. (The best relationships are established on the basis of Ideology 3:102, 49:10-13).

25:55 Yet they serve instead of Allah that which can neither benefit them nor harm them. Indeed, the rejecter of the Truth, (regardless of his origin and relationship), joins hands with another rejecter against his own Sustainer. (Zaheer = Helper. Ideology vs. relatives 11:45-47, 66:10).

25:56 Yet We have sent you (O Prophet) only as a bearer of glad news and a Warner.

25:57 Say, "I ask you no reward for it but this: That whoever wishes, may take a Path to his Lord." (34:47, 42:13).

25:58 And put your trust in Him Who lives and dies not, and strive to manifest His Praise. He suffices as the Knower of where His servants trail behind.

25:59 He who has created the heavens and the earth and that is between them in six stages, and is established on the Throne of Supreme Control, the Beneficent! About Him, ask the One Who is Aware (reflecting on this Revelation and on the Universe).

25:60 Yet when it is said to them, “Adore the Beneficent!” They say, "What is the Beneficent? Are we to adore just what you say?" And it merely increases them in disgust.

25:61 Blessed is He (the Beneficent) Who set up in the sky great constellations, and put therein a radiant Lamp, and a Moon giving light.

25:62 And He it is Who causes the night and the day to succeed each other. (Therein is sufficient sign) for him who is determined to understand the Truth, and who is determined to be appreciative of the Guidance.

25:63 The true servants of the Beneficent are those who:
- Walk upon the earth humbly.
- And when the ignorant ones address them, they say, "Peace!" (3:138, 22:41, 31:17-18).

25:64 - And who adore their Lord at night, preparing themselves to make a rightful submission and take a rightful stand.(3:190).

25:65 - And who say, “Our Lord! Avert from us the doom of Hell, for its doom is bound to be a dire torment.”

25:66 Verily, it is a miserable abode and station.

25:67 - And those who when they spend their wealth, are neither wasteful, nor stingy.(2:219).
- And (they know that) there is always middle ground between the two extremes.

25:68 - And those who call on no deities along with Allah.
- Nor take a life that Allah has forbidden except in course of justice (through a court of Law).
- Nor do they commit adultery – and whoever does this, will drag down his own humanity.

25:69 The retribution on the Day of Resurrection will be doubled for him and therein he will abide in lasting humiliation.

25:70 Except him who repents and believes in the Permanent Moral Values and takes corrective action. For such, Allah will replace the ill effects of their deeds with balancing effects of good deeds. For, Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

25:71 And whoever repents and takes corrective action, verily he turns toward Allah with true repentance.

25:72 Now those who:
- Never give false witness.
- Do not participate in assemblies of vanity.
- And when they pass near senseless play, pass by with dignity.

25:73 – And who, whenever they are reminded of even the Revelations of their Lord, do not fall at them deaf and blind (with deaf and blind acceptance).

25:74 – And who say, "Our Lord! Grant us that our spouses and children be a joy to our eyes (that they excel in character). And make us the foremost among those who walk aright."

25:75 They, such are these who will be rewarded with a high station of honor for their steadfast commitment (to their Lord). Therein they will be met with salutation and peace.

25:76 Therein to abide. What a goodly destiny! And what a high station!

25:77 Say (to the believers, O Prophet), "No value would My Lord attach to you if you did not invite people to Him." (And tell the rejecters), “Since you have indeed denied the Truth, the requital will be stuck to your being forever.”

**Surah 26 – Ash-Shu’ara – The Poets**

[Author's note] This is the 26th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 227 verses. The Book goes along in its style of unity in diversity. The Qur'an emphasizes that nothing in the Universe is inherently bad. Poetry can be beneficial or detrimental depending on the message it carries. Those who indulge in senseless poetry mislead people and waste their own and others' time. Poets do not do what they say, and only the straying people follow them. The exceptions are those poets who believe in the Divine Values and work for the betterment of humanity. The Surah embraces some other magnificent concepts as well.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

26:1 T.S.M. Toor-e-Sina and Moses - Recall Mount Sinai where Moses was given the Statute Book.

26:2 Now these are verses of the Final Statute Book, clear in itself and clearly showing the Truth.

26:3 (O Prophet) Will you, (in your compassion), torment yourself to death because they refuse to believe in it?

26:4 Had We so Willed, We could have sent down to them a Sign from the sky, to which they would have bent their necks in humility. (But, that is not Our Design. We expect them to use their reason 12:108)).

26:5 And so whenever a Reminder comes to them from the Beneficent, they turn away from it.

26:6 Thus indeed have they rejected this Message. But in time they will come to understand what it was that they ridiculed.

26:7 Do they not see the earth how much of every fruitful kind We cause to grow therein?

26:8 This is indeed a Sign, yet most of them are not believers (in the Almightiness of their Lord).

26:9 But, verily, your Lord is Almighty, Merciful. (Whether they believe or not He provides them with means of sustenance).

26:10 And recall when your Lord called Moses, "Go to the nation of the oppressors,

26:11 To the people of Pharaoh so that they may walk aright."

26:12 Moses said, "My Lord! I am afraid they will accuse me of lying.

26:13 I shall be embarrassed and I might not speak confidently, so send for Aaron to help me.

26:14 And they stick a charge against me, so I fear they will kill me." (28:15).

26:15 Allah said, "Nay! Both of you go with Our Messages. We are with you".

26:16 Go together to Pharaoh and say, "We are Messengers from the Lord of the Worlds."

26:17 And, "Let the Children of Israel go with us." (20:47).

26:18 Pharaoh said to Moses, "Did we not rear you as a child among us? And you lived with us many years of your life.

26:19 And you did what you did, killing a man from our nation. You are of the ungrateful."

26:20 Moses said, "Indeed I did it but I am lost how it happened!" (I only struck him once with a fist and he died 28:15).

26:21 Then I fled from you in fear. Now Allah has given me a Command and appointed me one of His Messengers.

26:22 And this, the past favor you so tauntingly remind me! Yes, you raised me in your palaces. But it was so since you enslaved the Children of Israel."

26:23 Pharaoh said, "What is the Lord of the Worlds?" (20:49).

26:24 Moses said, "Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them; if you allow yourselves to be convinced." (43:51, 79:24).

26:25 Pharaoh said to the people around him, "Don't you hear what he says?"

26:26 Moses said, "Yes, He is your Lord and the Lord of your ancestors."

26:27 Pharaoh said, "Your Messenger that has been sent to you is a crazy man."

26:28 Moses said, "He is the Lord of the East and the West and everything in between. You would know if you use reason."

26:29 Pharaoh said, "If you choose a god other than me, I will put you in prison."

26:30 Moses responded, "Even if I bring to you all evidence of the Truth?"

26:31 He said, "Bring your signs if you are truthful."

26:32 Moses presented the Absolute Truth, vibrant with life. (7:107-108, 20:17-25, 28:31-32).

26:33 He presented his powerful logic that shone bright.

26:34 Pharaoh said to his chiefs, "He is a magical debater.

26:35 He intends to make you ineffective in your own land by causing a popular rebellion. What do you advise?" (7:110).

26:36 They said, "Put him and his brother on hold and send couriers into cities,

26:37 That they bring all expert religious debaters to you."

26:38 The debaters got together at the appointed day and time.

26:39 People were given an open invitation to assemble there, “Are you are all gathering?”

26:40 Pharaoh continued, “So that when the debaters win, we carry them in a procession.”

26:41 When they came, they said to Pharaoh, "Will there be a reward for us if we are the winners?"

26:42 He said, "Yes, and you will have high ranks in my court." (7:113).

26:43 Moses said, “Begin however you wish to begin.”

26:44 They put forward their logic and swore, "By Pharaoh's majesty! We will be the victors."

26:45 Moses responded with the mighty Truth, and right away it swallowed their false logic.

26:46 The debaters fell prostrate in awe.

26:47 Saying, "We believe in the Lord of the Worlds.

26:48 The Lord of Moses and Aaron."

26:49 Pharaoh said, "You believe in him before I grant my permission? He is surely your chief who has taught you spellbinding eloquence. You shall find out soon. I will cut off your hands and feet alternately and verily I will crucify you everyone."

26:50 They said, "We have nothing to lose, we will turn to our Lord and return to Him anyway.

26:51 We hope that our Lord will forgive our faults, since we are the foremost of the believers."

26:52 We revealed to Moses, "Take away My servants by night, for, behold, you will be pursued."

26:53 In the meantime, Pharaoh sent couriers to the cities.

26:54 "This is a low contemptible gang.

26:55 And indeed they are offenders against us.

26:56 And, we are indeed a ready army."

26:57 Thus We drove them (Pharaoh and his chiefs) out of the gardens and springs.

26:58 And treasures, lofty positions and beautiful estate. (Destined to be drowned in hateful pursuit of Moses and his followers).

26:59 Thus were those things taken away from them and We caused the Children of Israel to inherit such blessings. (Instead of returning to Egypt they would rule the land including Sinai, Jordan, Palestine, Northern Arabian Peninsula until their zenith during the times of David and Solomon about 940 B.C. 7:136:137, 20:76-80).

26:60 And they (Pharaoh's armies) overtook them at sunrise.

26:61 When both parties saw each other, the companions of Moses said, "Behold, We are indeed caught."

26:62 He answered, “Nay indeed! My Lord is with me and He will guide me.”

26:63 Then We revealed to Moses, “Strike the sea with your staff. (Seek for them a dry path with confidence. Cross over the dried up Sea of Reeds 20:77, 44:24). The morning found the two parties apart like two hills with a basin in between.

26:64 And We caused the pursuers to draw near to that place.

26:65 And We saved Moses and those with him, every one of them.

26:66 (And as the high tide came), We drowned the others.

26:67 Herein is indeed a lesson. Yet, most people are not believers in the Law of Requital.

26:68 And verily, your Lord! He is indeed Almighty, Merciful.

6:69 And convey to them of the history of Abraham.

26:70 When he said to his father and his people, "What is it that you worship?"

26:71 They said, "We worship idols and we are very devoted to them."

26:72 He said, "Do they hear when you call them?

26:73 Or do they benefit or harm you?"

26:74 They said, "Nay, but we found our forefathers doing this."

26:75 He said, "Have you, then ever considered what it is that you have been worshiping,

26:76 You and your forefathers!

26:77 Now verily, they (all kinds of idols) are enemies to me, for I am devoted only to the Lord of the Worlds.

26:78 The One who created me, and He guides me.

26:79 And is the One Who provides food and drink to me (and to you).

26:80 And when I get sick, then He is the One who restores me to health.

26:81 And Who will cause me to die and then bring me back to life.

26:82 And Who I ardently hope, will absolve my imperfections on the Day of Judgment.”

26:83 My Lord! Grant me wisdom and good judgment, and count me among those who have perfected their "Self".

26:84 And grant me the ability to convey the Truth even to those who will come after me.

26:85 And include me among those who will inherit the Garden of Bliss.

26:86 And forgive my father (by letting him become worthy of it). For, verily he is of those who go astray. (9:114, 14:41, 19:47, 60:4).

26:87 And put me not to embarrassment the Day when people are raised.

26.88 The Day when wealth and children will not avail anyone.

26:89 And when only he will prosper that brings to Allah a noble heart." (37:85).

26:90 And the Garden will be brought close for those who walk aright.

26:91 Whereas the blazing Fire will appear plainly before those who had lost themselves in error.

26:92 And it will be said, "Where is all that you used to worship and obey,

26:93 Instead of Allah? Can they help you or help themselves?”

26:94 Then they will be hurled into Hell, the leaders and their straying followers.

26:95 And the party of Iblis, all together.

26:96 And right away, blaming one another, they will exclaim,

26:97 “By God, we were in manifest error!

26:98 When we ranked you with the Lord of the Worlds.

26:99 It is these guilty leaders who misled us.

26:100 Now we have no intercessors.

26:101 Nor a close friend.

26:102 Oh, if only we could have another chance that we could be among the believers.” (23:99-100, 39:58).

26:103 In all this, behold, there is lesson but, most of them still are not believers (in the Law of Requital).

26:104 And verily, your Lord! He is Almighty, Merciful. (He gives you sustenance for body and mind).

26:105 The people of Noah too denied the Messengers.

26:106 When their brother Noah said to them, "Will you not walk aright?

26:107 Behold, I am a Messenger to you, worthy of your trust.

26:108 Be mindful of Allah and pay heed to me.

26:109 And no reward, whatever, do I ask for it. My reward rests with none but the Lord of the Worlds.

26:110 So be mindful of Allah and pay heed to me.”

26:111 They answered, "Shall we put our faith in you even though the low class people are following you?"

26:112 Said he, “I do not care what their professions are and what they have been doing before.

26:113 Their accountability is up to my Lord. If only you understood (that the most honored in the Sight of Allah is the one who is best in conduct 49:13).

26:114 Hence, I shall not drive away the believers.

26:115 I am only a plain Warner.”

26:116 They said, "O Noah! If you do not refrain, you will surely be stoned to death."

26:117 Thereupon he prayed, "My Lord! Behold, my people are accusing me of lying.

26:118 Hence, judge between me and them openly, and save me and my company of believers.”

26:119 And We saved him and those who accompanied him in the laden Ark.

26:120 Then afterward We drowned the others.

26:121 In this, behold, there is a sign, even though most of them are not believers (in the Law of Requital).

26:122 But, verily, your Lord is Almighty, Merciful (His Rule is the Rule of Law, and not that of dictatorial whims).

26:123 Aad also rejected the Messengers.

26:124 When their brother Hud said to them, “Will you not walk aright?

26:125 I am a Messenger to you, worthy of your trust.

26:126 Be mindful of Allah and pay heed to me.

26:127 And no reward, whatever, do I ask for it. My reward rests with none but the Lord of the Worlds.

26:128 You build on every height monuments of vanity.

26:129 And make for yourselves mighty castles; will you thus become immortal?

26:130 And you seize people cruelly, without any restraint. (Oppressing people into slavery to build these gorgeous buildings for you).

26:131 Be mindful of Allah and heed me.

26:132 Be mindful of Him Who helped you with good things you know and the know-how and skills.

26:133 He Who has helped you with, livestock and human resources.

26:134 And gardens, and water springs.

26:135 Verily, I fear for you the requital of an awesome day.”

26:136 But they answered, "It is the same for us whether you counsel us or not.

26:137 This has been our life-style for generations.

26:138 And we shall never be doomed."

26:139 So, they rejected him and We destroyed them. Therein, behold, is a sign, even though most people are not believers (in the Law of Requital).

26:140 But, verily, your Lord is Almighty, Merciful. (His Mighty Rule is the Rule of Law).

26:141 Thamud also denied the Messengers.

26:142 When their brother Saleh said to them, "Will you not walk aright?

26:143 Behold, I am a Messenger to you, worthy of your trust.

26:144 Be mindful of Allah and heed me.

26:145 I ask you no reward, whatever, for it. My reward rests with none but the Lord of the Worlds.

26:146 Do you suppose that you could continue in security as it is (with your unjust system) forever?

26:147 In gardens and water springs.

26:148 And fields, and these palm trees and delicious fruits.

26:149 And that you will always skillfully carve out of the mountains luxurious mansions?

26:150 Be mindful of Allah and heed me.

26:151 And obey not the command of those who trespass the bounds of justice and equity.

26:152 Those who spread corruption in the land, and reform not."

26:153 But they replied, "You are but one of the bewitched.

26:154 You are just a mortal like us. So bring us a miracle if you are a man of truth."

26:155 He said, "Behold, this she-camel. (She represents the weak and poor). She being (ownerless) has the right to drink at the well, just as you have the right to water (your flock) at the time of watering.

26:156 Do not harm her, or the retribution will seize you on an awesome day."

26:157 But they killed her and made way for their own humiliation. (The usual rendering here of FAASBAHOO NADIMEEN that they regretted, repented or became penitent seems to be incorrect, since in that case the Most Gracious might have forgiven them).

26:158 So, the Retribution seized them. Herein is indeed a sign, yet most people are not believers (in the Law of Requital).

26:159 And, verily, your Lord! He is indeed the Mighty, the Merciful. (He is Merciful that His Rule is the Rule of Law).

26:160 And the people of Lot also denied Messengers.

26:161 When their brother Lot said to them, "Will you not walk aright?

26:162 Behold, I am a Messenger to you, worthy of your trust.

26:163 Be mindful of Allah and heed me.

26:164 And no reward whatever do I ask you for it. My reward rests with none but with the Lord of the Worlds.

26:165 Of all the creatures in the Worlds, you approach males.

26:166 And leave those whom your Lord has created for you to be your mates. You are people who cross all bounds of decency.”

26:167 They said, "O Lot! If you desist not, you will be driven out of the town.”

26:168 He said, "Behold, I am of those who deplore your actions.”

26:169 "O My Lord! Save me, my family and my followers from the consequences of what they do."

26:170 So, We saved him and his followers, all of them.

26:171 All but the old woman (the wife of Lot) who chose to stay behind.

26:172 And then We utterly destroyed the others.

26:173 And We rained on them a rain, the dreadful rain (from the volcano) on those who all had been warned.

26:174 Herein indeed is a sign, but most of them were not believers in the Law of Requital.

26:175 Your Lord is Almighty, Merciful. (His Mighty Rule is the Rule of Law).

26:176 And the dwellers in the wood dales (of Midyan) denied the Messengers. (The Nation of Midyan lived between Madinah and Damascus since around 2000 B.C. They were the descendants of Prophet Abraham's son MIDYAN from his third wife QATOORA. Prophet Shoaib was raised among them around 1300 B.C. 7:85).

26:177 When their brother Shoaib said to them, "Will you not walk aright?

26:178 Behold, I am a Messenger to you, worthy of your trust.

26:179 Be mindful of Allah and heed me.

26:180 I ask you no reward whatever for it. My reward is with none but with the Lord of the worlds.

26:181 Always give full measure, and do not cause loss to people.

26:182 And in all your dealings, weigh with a just balance.

26:183 And do not deprive people of what is rightfully theirs. And desist from creating corruption and disorder in the land.

26:184 Be mindful of Him Who created you and the generations before.”

26:185 They said, "You are but of the bewitched.

26:186 For, you are nothing but a mortal like us. And, behold, We think that you are one of the liars.

26:187 If you are truthful, let fragments of the sky fall upon us."

26:188 He replied, "My Lord is best Aware of your actions.”

26:189 But they persisted in denial. Then the Day of overshadowing gloom seized them. It was the suffering of an awesome day. (Historically, a dark extensive cloud rained upon them heavily and incessantly. It is sometimes referred to as the Day of the Canopy).

26:190 Herein, behold, is a sign, and most of them were not believers (in the Law of Requital).

26:191 Behold, your Lord! He is Almighty, Merciful. (His Rule is the Rule of Law).

26:192 Now, behold, this Qur'an is the Revelation from the Lord of the Worlds.

26:193 The trustworthy Divine Energy (angel Gabriel) has brought it down. (2:97, 16:102).

26:194 Upon your heart (O Prophet), so that you may be of the Warners.

26:195 (In a language that is clear and easy to understand.) In the plain Arabic tongue. (Universality of the Message 7:158, 25:1. Ishmael, Hud, Saleh, Shoaib, all of them preached in the Arabian Peninsula. And since Aramaic and Hebrew are ancient Arabic dialects, all the Hebrew Prophets, in this sense, conveyed the Divine Message in the Arabic tongue).

26:196 And verily, it (the Qur'an) has been announced in the previous Scriptures.

26:197 Is it not an evidence enough for them that learned men among the Children of Israel have recognized it?

26:198 But if We had revealed this to any of the non-Arabs,

26:199 And had he read it to them, they would have had reason to disbelieve it.

26:200 But to the guilty people, it just passes through their hearts (as a foreign tongue even though they might be Arabs).

26:201 They will not believe in it until they suffer the dire consequences.

26:202 The Requital will come upon them suddenly, when they least expect it.

26:203 Then they will say, "Could we have a respite?"

26:204 Do they wish that Our Requital come to them quickly?

26:205 As you see, Our Law of Respite allows them to enjoy Our bounties for years.

26:206 And then comes that which they were promised.

26:207 Then, of what avail will be their past enjoyments?

26:208 (It is Our Law that) We never annihilated a township but it had its Warners.

26:209 Reminder! Therefore, this (Qur'an) is. We are never unjust.

26:210 (Gabriel has come down with it 26:193.) It is not something that the mischievous diviners and clairvoyants bring.

26:211 It is beyond their stature, nor is it in their power.

26:212 (Soothsayers, diviners, fortunetellers etc., unless they reform), They are banished from hearing and understanding the Revelation. (15:17-18, 37:8, 67:5).

26:213 Hence, (O Human) Call not any other deity with Allah, or you will be of the doomed.

26:214 And warn first those who are close to you.

26:215 (O Prophet) Lower your wing in kindness to those who believe and follow you. (15:88).

26:216 To them who deny you, say, “I am free of responsibility from what you do.”

26:217 Put your trust in the Almighty, the Merciful.

26:218 Who sees you whenever you take a stand.

26:219 And move among those who adore.

26:220 Verily, He, only He is the Hearer, the Knower.

26:221 Shall I inform you on whom the devils descend?

26:222 They descend on every lying, self-deceiver.

26:223 They listen for lies and rumors, and most of them make up lies.

26:224 As for poets, the strayers follow them. (Poets claim that they speak out of intuition or inspiration. Their followers succumb to emotional deceit).

225 Haven't you seen how they stray in every valley of thought, like a camel with false thirst?

26:226 And how they say what they practice not?

26:227 Except those poets who believe in the Revelation. They (do what they say and) help create balance in the society. They engage much in the remembrance of Allah. They help create a social order in which oppression is requited and thus prevented. They stand up for human rights. The wrongdoers will soon find out how their plans would be reversed on themselves.

**Surah 27 – An-Naml – The Valley of An-Naml (North of Yemen)**

[Author's note] This is the 27th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 93 verses. This Surah has commonly been misinterpreted because of relying heavily on conjectural tradition and for trying to give literal meanings to allegorical terms and verses.

While "Naml" does mean ant in Arabic, this Surah refers to the Valley and the Community in ancient Southern Arabian Peninsula, that was called An-Naml. This Surah is an excellent example of how the Qur'an makes a beautiful use of metaphors, similes and allegories. Please recall that early on in the Qur'an the reader is strongly advised that many of its verses are allegorical. This is especially so concerning the Unseen, the history, the future and the abstract. (3:7).

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

27:1 T.S. Toor-e-Sina, Mount Sinai. (The initiation of Revelation to Moses, and now), These are Messages of the Qur'an, the Book clear in itself and clearly showing the Truth.

27:2 A Guidance and a glad tiding for the believers (in it).

27:3 Who establish and consolidate the Divine System and set up the Just Economic Order of Zakat. They have conviction in the life to come (that the human "Self" lives on after death, and that all actions meet a just requital).

27:4 Those who do not believe in the eternity of the "Self", will obviously deny the continuation of life after death. Our Law makes their deeds of instant gratification pleasing in their eyes and so they keep stumbling blindly to and fro.

27:5 It is they whom the worst suffering awaits, and they will be the greatest losers in the Hereafter.

27:6 Surely, you are receiving the Qur'an from the Presence of One Wise, Aware.

27:7 (Moses was also given a clear book. When he and his family were in a cold and dark valley), Moses said, "Behold, I see a fire. I may bring you news from there (about our location). Or bring you a burning torch so that you might warm yourselves." (28:29).

27:8 But when he came close to it, he was called, "Blessed are all who are in and near the Light! And Exalted is Allah, Lord of the Worlds." (See 9:32 for the allegory of Fire + Light = Divine Guidance. 7:137, 28:30).

27:9 "O Moses! It is I, Allah, the Almighty, the Wise."

27:10 Allah (revealed Guidance to Moses and) said, "Now rehearse the Truth." When Moses did that, he felt that he had the vibrant Force of Truth in hand. Yet he was awe-struck by the uphill task before him, like grabbing a huge demon. God said, "O Moses! Fear not - behold, the Messengers fear not in My Presence."

(Please note 'kaannaha jann' = as if it was a dragon, concerning the 'asa' or staff in 27:10. Additional Tasreef: 7:108, 20:17-24, 26:10-15, 26:32-33, 28:31-32).

27:11 "Nor anyone who has replaced the wrong with good should have any fear. For, verily I am Forgiving, Merciful." (28:15-17).

27:12 "Now, when you present the Light in your heart with forceful Logic, it will shine with unblemished Truth. Take the Nine of My Messages to Pharaoh and his people - for, verily they are a nation drifting away from the Right Path." (28:32. Nine, and not ten Commandments 17:101).

27:13 But when they received Our Light-giving Messages, they said, "This is clearly a spellbinding deception."

27:14 And they rejected the Messages wrongfully and out of pride, although they were convinced within themselves. And behold what happened in the end to the corrupters.

27:15 And indeed, We bestowed upon David and Solomon knowledge and they used to say, "Praise be to Allah Who has blessed us more than a great many of His believing servants."

27:16 Solomon was David's heir in continuation of Allah's Revelation. He said, "O People! We have been given a great cavalry of ready horses with the best knowledge of training them, and given every blessing. This evidently is a great Bounty on our nation." (21:79, 34:10. Solomon ruled as King from 965 to 926 B.C.)

27:17 Solomon's army included warrior tribes of the woods and the mountains, dwellers of townships, and great riders of the tribe of Taer. They were well disciplined, and dedicated to any appointed mission.

27:18 Once (when Solomon was on an expedition to the South), they came upon the valley ruled by Queen An-Naml. The Queen, (realizing the power of Solomon), ordered her armies, "Go back in your barracks, lest Solomon and his armies crush you without knowing that we are a peaceful tribe."

27:19 Solomon smiled joyously at her words and said, "My Lord! Enable me to be grateful for your blessings upon me and my parents. Enable me to work for the betterment of humanity and thus please You. Include me, by Your Grace, among your righteous servants."

27:20 (Leaving the peaceful tribe of An-Naml alone, Solomon marched forward.) As he examined the cavalry, he said, "How is it that I do not see the commander Al-hoodhood, the Hoopoe? Is he one of the absentees?"

27:21 (Absconding from the marching army was a breach of discipline.) Solomon said, "Unless the commander presented a good reason I would punish him or demote him to a low rank."

27:22 But before long Al-hoodhood showed up. (He was coming back from a reconnaissance mission to the Kingdom of Queen Bilqis, Sheba). He said, "I have come with the latest news, some important and reliable information from the land of Sheba that you are not aware of." (Their armies were planning an expedition towards the North).

27:23 "Behold, the country is ruled by a Queen who has been given everything and she has a tremendous throne."

27:24 "I found her and her people worshiping the sun instead of Allah. Their ego makes them think that they are doing right. Satan (the priesthood of the Sun Temple) hinders them from the Right Path. So they cannot find the Right Way."

27:25 "They do not understand that they must adore Allah Who brings forth from His Unseen treasures in the heavens and the earth, and Who knows all that you hide and declare."

27:26 "(They need to know that) there is no god but Allah, the Lord of the Supreme Control.”

27:27 Solomon listened to the report and decided to carry out further investigation to ascertain the truth. Said he, "We shall see whether you have told the truth or are one of the liars."

27:28 (He gave a letter to the Commander of the cavalry to take to the court of Sheba, and to watch their response), "Go with this letter of mine and make sure you convey it to them, and then come back with the answer they give."

27:29 The Queen said, "O Chiefs! Behold, a very noble letter has been conveyed to me."

27:30 "It is from Solomon and it says, ‘With the Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustained Source of all Mercy and Kindness.’"

27:31 ‘Exalt not yourselves against me, but come to me as those who surrender.’” (The Kingdom of Queen Bilqis Sheba of Yemen-Abyssinia had hostile plans towards the North).

27:32 She said, "O Chiefs! Advise me in this matter. (You know that) I take no decisions without you."

27:33 They said, "We have the power, we are tough in warfare, and the command is yours. Think about (other aspects of the situation) and order as you will."

27:34 She said, "Behold, when kings invade a town, they ruin it and humiliate its dignitaries. This is what they shall do.

27:35 Hence, I am going to send a gift to them and see the response that our envoys bring." (The intelligent Queen made a prudent decision disregarding the advice of her loyal chiefs. She was cognizant of King Solomon's might, and she was impressed by the benevolent message in the letter).

27:36 The envoys reached Solomon with the gift and a letter from the Queen. Solomon said, "What! Do you want to please me with a gift of vanity? Allah has given me better than what He has given you (material wealth and Guidance). Nay, it is you who may exult in your gift.” (Historically, the gift was studded with precious jewels and diamonds. Solomon, being a Prophet of God and a powerful emperor expected the Queen to denounce her hostile intentions in the region and to reflect about the One True God).

27:37 Solomon said to the envoys, “Go back to them, (and tell them that) we verily will come to them with forces they cannot withstand. We shall drive the leaders out of power and humiliate them to shame.”

(Historically the Kingdom of Sheba flourished from 1100 to 115 B.C. At their zenith they were the richest nation in the world. Their economy was based on excellent agriculture and international trade. They had the most advanced irrigation systems of the times, with great water dams. Their Kingdom included today’s whole of Yemen, Somalia and Ethiopia, and boasting a strong army, they frequently had expansive designs further south and up north. As the inevitable result of worshiping multiple false deities, including the sun, their society was not without inequities of caste and creed. Solomon, the King and the Prophet, planned to subdue the Sheba Empire to thwart their aggressive designs and to protect the region from oppression. And he succeeded magnificently. Queen Bilqis of Sheba and her nation embraced Solomon’s Message and reverted to the worship and obedience of the One True God).

27:38 (When Solomon found out that the Queen was coming), he said, “O Chiefs! Which one of you can present the best plan to get her throne before they come to me surrendering?” (1500 miles between Ma'arib, the capital of Sheba to Jerusalem.)

27:39 One of the strong commanders of the mountain division said, "My troops can accomplish this mission with lightening speed, before you rise up to think of and assign anyone else. Behold, I am competent and trustworthy for this job."

27:40 Another powerful commander, who had knowledge of the correspondence, said, "I can accomplish the mission even sooner, before your gaze returns to you (before you having to rethink)." (Solomon dispatched the forces, and the mission was smoothly accomplished. The Queen’s throne was brought to Jerusalem before she arrived and) he saw it set in his presence. He said, "This success is a blessing from my Lord, that He may try me whether I am grateful or ungrateful. Whoever is grateful is grateful for his own good, and whoever is ungrateful, should know that my Lord is Self-Sufficient, Supremely Honorable.”

27:41 Solomon then said, “Alter her throne for her that we may see whether she gets the point and comes to guidance or she remains unguided.” (Solomon’s workmen had erased the images of the sun god, inscribed sensible inscriptions and made the throne look even more gorgeous).

27:42 So, when she came, she was asked, “Is your throne like this?” She said, “It seems that this is it! We already knew that the Truth is on your side and my chiefs and I have surrendered to it.” (The previous knowledge about Solomon’s character and Kingdom, the distinguished letters he wrote to her and reports by her envoys, and now his superb court had convinced the intelligent and open-minded Queen).

27:43 King Solomon redirected her from worshiping others than Allah. She had been one of the disbelieving folk, before. (Solomon advised her that obeying the Laws of Allah could bring not only the best provision in the world but insure eternal success. Queen Sheba embraced the Message and stopped worshiping the sun, and other creations of Allah).

27:44 She was escorted to the palace. It was said, “Enter the hall.” When she saw the smooth polished glass floor, she thought that it was a pool of water and she was spellbound. (‘Kashafat ‘an saqaiha’ idiomatically means that she was spellbound, and not that she bared her calves; a common error of many translators. For example, tying one’s hand to the neck means miserliness). Solomon said, “This is a palace paved smooth with slabs of glass.” She said, "I have been doing wrong to myself, and now I submit with Solomon to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds." (She realized that following the Divine Laws ensures the best bounties in this life as well. There are some historical accounts that Solomon and Bilqis got married. But the Rabbinical Talmudic traditions

propose that they committed adultery then and there, out of which Nimrod Nebuchadnezzar, the tyrant emperor of Babylon was born! That is of course inconceivable of a Prophet of God).

27:45 And, indeed, We sent to Thamud their brother Saleh saying, “Serve Allah alone.” They had become divided into two contending classes (the rich and the poor).

27:46 Saleh said, "O My people! Why do you hasten to commit evil instead of doing good? Why do you not (mend your ways and) ask Allah to forgive you, so that you may become worthy of His Mercy?”

27:47 They answered, "We consider you, and your companions a bad omen for us." He said, "Your omen is determined by Allah’s Laws. Nay, you are but a folk who are being tested."

27:48 Now there was a gang of nine leaders in the city who spread disorder in the land, and blocked all reform.

27:49 They called a meeting and after swearing to one another in the name of Allah, said, “Indeed, we shall ambush him and his family by night, and afterward we shall boldly say to his tribe, “We know nothing about their death. And, behold, we are men of truth.’ ”

27:50 And so they devised an evil scheme. But Our ever-vigilant Law of Requital invariably has counter designs. And they perceived it not.

27:51 Behold, then, how their scheme ended. Our Law annihilated them (the corrupt leaders) and their nation, all of them. (The excuse of the masses that their leaders had led them astray will be of no avail 14: 21-22, 34:31-33, 37:25-33).

27:52 And now their dwellings are empty, ruined as an outcome of their violation of human rights. Herein, behold, is a sign for those who make use of what they learn.

27:53 And We saved those who believed in Our Laws and walked aright.

27:54 And Lot! (We saved likewise) as he said to his people, "Will you commit this abomination while you see and understand?"

27:55 You approach men with lust instead of women. Nay, you are people who disregard what you know (27:54)."

27:56 But the answer of his people was nothing but, "Expel Lot’s followers from your town! For, they are people who show off to be pure."

27:57 Thereupon We saved Lot, his household and his followers but his wife – whom We knew was destined to remain behind for her disbelief. [7:85, 11:81, 66:10. Genesis states that she accidentally looked back and was, therefore, doomed!]

27:58 And We rained a rain upon them. Dreadful is the rain for those who have been warned.

27:59 Say, "All Praise to Allah and salutation on His servants whom He has raised in ranks!” Is Allah Best or the ‘partners’ people ascribe to Him?

27:60 Nay, who is it that has created the heavens and the earth, and sends down for you water from the sky? And with it We cause to spring forth beautiful orchards. It was never of your doing to make the trees in them grow - any god beside Allah? Nay, they who think so are people who are deviating (from reality).

27:61 Nay, who is it that has made the earth habitable, and caused rivers to run through it, and has set upon it firm mountains, and has set a barrier between two great bodies of water – any god beside Allah? (25:53). Nay, most of them do not use their knowledge.

27:62 Nay, who is it that responds to the distressed when he calls out to Him, and removes the distress, and made you mankind inheritors of the earth – any god beside Allah? (24:54-55). How seldom do you keep this in mind!

27:63 Nay, who is it that shows you the way in the darkness of land and sea, and sends forth the winds as heralds of His Grace – any god beside Allah? Sublime, Exalted is Allah from all that they associate with Him.

27:64 Nay, who is it that initiates creation, then reproduces it? And who is that provides for you from the heaven and the earth – any god beside Allah? Say, “If you think so bring your evidence if you are men of truth.” (23:117).

27:65 Say, "None in the heavens and the earth knows the Unseen – none whatsoever but Allah. Nor do they perceive when they will be raised.” (16:22).

27:66 Nay, their knowledge of the Hereafter stops short of conviction. Nay, they are in doubt concerning it. Nay, they block their mind in blindness from realizing (the unwavering Law of Requital).

27:67 And so, they who are bent upon denial say, “What! After we have become dust, and our forefathers, shall we indeed be brought forth again?

27:68 Indeed we were promised this, and our forefathers. It is nothing but fables of ancient times. ”

27:69 Say, “Travel in the land and see what has been the end of the guilty.”

27:70 And grieve not for them, nor distress yourself because of their plots.”

27:71 And they say, “When is this promise to be fulfilled, if you are men of truth?”

27:72 Say, “You are already going through some of the suffering you challenge.”

27:73 Now verily, your Lord is indeed limitless in His bounty to mankind, but most of them do not give thanks (by sharing with others).

27:74 But, verily, your Lord knows what their hearts conceal, and all that they proclaim.

27:75 And there is nothing hidden in the heaven and the earth but it is in a clear Record.

27:76 Behold, this Qur'an explains to the Children of Israel most of wherein they differ (such as the nature of Jesus).

27:77 And, verily, it is a Guidance and Grace for all who believe in it.

27:78 Verily, your Lord will judge between them in His Wisdom, for, He is the Mighty, the Knower.

27:79 Hence, put your trust in Allah alone, for, behold, you are taking stand on Truth self-evident.

27:80 But verily, you cannot make the dead (or the "living-dead") hear, nor can you make the deaf of heart to hear the call when they turn back to retreat.

27:81 Nor can you lead the blind of reason out of their error. You can only make those hear who believe in Our Signs, so they submit.

27:82 Now, when the Word stands fulfilled against them (humanity paying no heed) We bring forth from among the humbled ones who tell them (by way of rebellion) that mankind has not had conviction in Our Laws. (6:65. 'Dabbatam-min-Al-ardh' applies to the humbled ones just as 'mountains' in several places in the Qur'an indicate the elite. The common understanding of this term as 'a creature coming out of the earth, in my humble opinion, is incorrect. For, supra-natural phenomena stand contrary to the Changeless Divine Laws. The error is the result of trying to give literal meaning to an allegory, and of blind following of fabricated Ahadith).

27:83 And times shall come when defiance of Our Laws will cause forces from every nation to assemble in alliances and meet one another in combat.

27:84 Till when they come worn out, (the Truth will become manifest to them, saying), "Did you deny My Messages because you failed to use your knowledge? Or what else was it that you were doing?" (10:39).

27:85 And the Word shall be fulfilled about them since they had oppressed one another. And then, they will be dumbfounded!

27:86 Do they not see that We have made the Night for them to rest in and the Day to give them light? Verily, in this are signs for any people who will believe. (The Divine Laws are as operational in the human society as they are in the Universe).

27:87 And on the Day when the Trumpet is sounded, everyone of the elite and of the humbled will be horrified, except such as Allah wills to exempt. And, all will present themselves to Him (His Laws) in humility. (6:74, 18:99, 20:102, 27:89, 39:68).

27:88 And the powerful elite that you deem firm as mountains, will float around like weightless clouds. Such is the Design of Allah Who disposes off all things in perfect order. Verily, He is fully Aware of what you do.

27:89 In those times nations that do good to humanity and make way for peace and security, will be best rewarded. (21:103, 27:87).

27:90 But they who cause inequity in the world, will fall prone into the fire of humiliation. “Are you rewarded other than what you did?”

27:91 Say (O Prophet), “I am commanded to serve the Lord of this town (Makkah) – Him who has made it sacred, and unto Whom all things belong. And I am commanded to be of those who surrender to Him.

27:92 And to convey this Qur’an (to mankind). Whoever, therefore, goes right, goes right only for the good of his own “Self”. And as for him who goes astray, say: I am only a Warner!”

27:93 And say, “All Praise is due to Allah! In time He will make you see the Truth of His Messages, and then you shall recognize them.” And your Lord is not unmindful of whatever you all may do.

**Surah 28 – Al-Qasas – The Narration**

[Author's note] This is the 28th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 88 verses. This Surah touches upon history with its lessons as well as other precious guidance for everyday life. Denounce not the life of this world for the Hereafter or vice versa.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

28:1 T.S.M. Toor-e-Sina, Moses. Commandments were given to Moses at Mount Sinai.

28:2 Now these are Messages of the Book clear in itself and it makes things clear.

28:3 We narrate to you some history of Moses and Pharaoh, setting forth the Truth for the benefit of those who will believe.

28:4 Behold, Pharaoh exalted himself in the land and divided its people into castes. A tribe among them (the Israelites) he oppressed, killing their sons and sparing their women. Verily, he was of the corrupters. (2:49, 7:141, 40:25).

[Prophet Joseph son of Prophet Israel Jacob had died around 1600 B.C. His successors gradually lost control of the government and the native Egyptians started up a slow but steady rebellion against the Israelites. About a century later around 1500 B.C. the Egyptians wrested control of the government and established a Kingdom. The Egyptian Kings from then on assumed the title ‘Pharaoh’. They began persecuting the Israelites about 1400 B.C. and this persecution reached its zenith in the times of Prophet Moses, under the rule of Pharaoh Ramses II (King from 1290 to 1224 B.C.)]

28:5 But it was Our Will to bestow favor unto those who were oppressed in the land, and to make them leaders, and to make them inheritors.

28:6 And to establish them in the earth, and to show Pharaoh (the King) and Haman (the Chief Adviser and High Priest) and their troops what they feared from the Israelites (rebellion).

[This Haman is quite different from the Persian Haman of the Old Testament who was an adviser to the Persian King Xerxes (who ruled eight hundred years later, from 486 to 465 B.C.). Whereas the ‘Haman’ of Pharaoh derives his name from the title borne by every successive High Priest of the Egyptian Kingdom. ‘Ha-Amen’ = High Priest of the Egyptian god Amon. So the Haman mentioned in the Qur’an refers to the High Priest during the reign of Ramses II. This information is important to bear in mind in order to avoid confusion.]

28:7 We inspired the mother of Moses, “Nourish him and when you worry for his life, then (place him in a box and) cast him into the river, and have no fear nor grieve. We shall bring him back to you and make him one of Our Messengers."

[The mother of Moses was the wife of Amram (Imran). They had three children: Miriam, Aaron and Moses in that order. Mary, mother of Jesus had descended from Amram probably through Aaron, and that is how the Qur’an refers to her as Mariam daughter of Imran. The Royal decree of Pharaoh applied to the new born boys when Aaron was already a few years old].

28:8 And the family of Pharaoh picked him up, not knowing that he would become an enemy unto them and a source of grief. That is because Pharaoh, Haman and their troops were a folk bent on committing fault upon fault.

28:9 Now the wife of Pharaoh said, "A joy to the eye for me and you! Slay him not. He may well be of use to us, or we may adopt him as a son.” And they perceived not (the future).

28:10 And the heart of the mother of Moses became void. She almost gave away his identity had We not strengthened her heart, so that she might remain a firm believer.

28:11 And so she said to his sister, “Follow him –and the girl (the 12 year old Miriam) watched him from afar, while they were not aware.

28:12 Now from the very beginning We caused him to refuse suckling from foster mothers. She (Miriam, the sister of baby Moses) said, "Shall I tell you of a family that can raise him for you and take good care of him?"

28:13 And thus We restored him to his mother so that her eye might be gladdened and that she might grieve no longer, and that she might know that Allah’s Promise always comes true. But most of them know not.

28:14 Now when Moses reached full strength and maturity, We blessed him with wisdom and knowledge. This is how We reward those who live a balanced, virtuous life.

28:15 And one day the young Moses entered the city at a time when most of its people were resting unaware of what was going on in the streets. And there he encountered two men fighting with each other. One was of his people (a Hebrew) and the other of his (Egyptian) adversaries. His tribesman cried out to him for help against the one who was of the enemies - Whereupon Moses struck him with his fist and thus, (accidentally) brought about his end. But then he said to himself, "This is of Satan’s doing! Verily, he is an open enemy, a misleader.” (Moses, not yet commissioned to Prophethood, was denouncing his emotions).

28:16 And he prayed, "My Lord! Verily, I have hurt my ‘Self’. Forgive me then.” And He forgave him – for, indeed, He is the Forgiving, the Merciful. (Moses had intended only to help the weak and not to kill the other man).

28:17 He said, "My Lord! For You have bestowed Your Grace on me, nevermore shall I be a supporter of the guilty."

28:18 And next morning he was in the city, fearful and vigilant when, behold! The man who had asked him the day before cried out to him for help. Moses said to him, "You are indeed one erring manifestly."

28:19 But then, as soon as he was about to lay his hands on their enemy the man said, “O Moses! Would you kill me as you killed a person yesterday? Your aim is to become a tyrant in the land, for you care not to be of those who set things right."

28:20 And then and there a man came running from the other side of the city, and said, "O Moses! Behold, the chiefs are considering your case with a view to killing you. You better leave immediately. Verily, I am of those who wish you well.”

28:21 So he escaped from there, fearful, vigilant. He said, "My Lord! Save me from the oppressive people."

28:22 As he turned his face towards Midyan, he said to himself, “It may well be that my Lord will guide me onto the right road."

28:23 Now when he arrived at the wells of Midyan, he found a crowd of people watering their herds and flocks. And he found two women who were keeping away their flocks. He asked, "What is the matter with you?" They said, "We cannot water our flocks until the shepherds take back their flocks. And our father is a very old man."

28:24 So he watered their flocks for them; then he turned back to the shade (of the tree he had been relaxing under). And he said, "My Lord! I am in dire need of any good that You bestow upon me and any opportunity that You provide me for doing good."

28:25 Shortly afterwards, one of the two maidens came to him walking shyly, and said, "Behold, my father invites you, so that he might duly reward you for having watered our flocks for us." As soon as Moses came unto him and told him the story, he said, "Have no fear! You are now safe from those oppressive folk.”

28:26 Said one of the two maidens, "O My father! Hire him! For, the best one you can hire is the competent, the trustworthy."

28:27 He (the father) said, "Behold, I am willing to let you marry one of these two daughters of mine on the understanding that you will remain eight pilgrimages (years) in my service. Then if you make it ten, it will be a grace from you. I do not want to impose any hardship on you. God Willing, you will find me righteous in all my dealings."

28:28 He (Moses) said, "Be that the agreement between me and you. Whichever of the two terms I fulfill, there will be no injustice to me. And Allah be Witness to all that we say.” (Moses married Shoaib’s daughter Zipporah and in time they had two sons).

28:29 And when Moses had fulfilled his term, and was traveling with his family, he saw a fire on the slope of Mount Toor of Sinai. He said to his family, "Stay here. Behold, I have seen a fire. I hope to bring you some information from there, or a burning torch, that you may warm yourselves."

28:30 But when he came close to it, he was called from the right side of the valley in the blessed field, from the tree, "O Moses! Behold! I, verily I am Allah, the Lord of the Worlds." (27:7-8).

28:31 (God said), "Rehearse your supporting power of Truth." Moses felt as if the mission assigned to him was like holding a huge demon, and he retreated hesitating. (See 27:10 'kannaha jann' -'as if it was a demon', applies to the living Truth as well as to the great mission). We said, "O Moses! Draw near (to conviction), and fear not – for, behold, you are secure from harm." (7:107-108, 20:17-24, 26:32-33, 27:10-12).

28:32 "The Guidance enshrined in your heart will shine unblemished when you present it with confidence. And guard your heart against all fear. Then these two shall be your evidences from your Lord to Pharaoh and his chiefs, (the Divine Truth and your confident presentation). Verily, they are people drifting away from Moral Values."

28:33 Moses said, "My Lord! I killed a man among them and I am afraid they will kill me.

28:34 And my brother Aaron – he is far better in speech than I am. Send him, therefore, as a helper, so that he might more eloquently bear witness to my speaking the truth. I am afraid that they will accuse me of lying."

28:35 God said, "We shall strengthen your abilities with your brother, and We will give both of you power that they will not be able to touch you. By Our Commands! You shall triumph, - you two as well as those who follow you."

28:36 But as soon as Moses came to them with Our clear Messages, they said, "This is a mysteriously fabricated lie. We have never heard such sermon from our ancestors."

[Note: They did not say, "We never saw a magic like this", they said, "We never heard such sermon."]

28:37 And Moses replied, "My Lord is best Aware as to who comes with Guidance from Him, and to whom the future belongs. Verily, the oppressors do not attain a happy state of mind."

28:38 Pharaoh said, "O Chiefs! I did not know that you could have any god other than myself. Well, then, O Haman! Kindle me a fire for baking bricks and then build me a lofty tower so that I may have a look at the god of Moses – although, behold, I deem that he is of the liars." [40:30. Some historical records propose that the Pyramids of Egypt began to be built under that Royal decree. And 38:12 in the Qur'an alludes to that possibility.]

28:39 Thus Pharaoh and his forces continued to behave with unjust pride in the land – just as they thought that they would never have to appear before Us.

28:40 And so We seized him and his armies, and threw them into the sea. And behold, what happened to those oppressors in the end.

28:41 And We made them leaders, a pattern, of those who take people to the Fire, and no help shall they find on the Resurrection Day.

28:42 In this world We did cause a rejection to follow them, and they shall be among the despised ones on the Day of Resurrection.

28:43 And, indeed, We had given the Scripture to Moses, after We had annihilated several earlier communities, - to give Insight to people, and Guidance and Mercy, that they take heed.

28:44 And (O Prophet) you were not present on the Western slope (of the Mount Sinai) when We expounded the Commandments to Moses, nor were you among those who witnessed his times.

28:45 Nay, but between them and you We brought forth many generations, and long was their life-span. And neither did you dwell among the people of Midyan, conveying to them Our Messages. Nay, but We have been sending Messengers.

28:46 And neither were you present on the slope of Mount Sinai when We called Moses. But you are sent as an act of your Lord's Grace, to warn people to whom no Warner has come before you, so that they may reflect. (32:3, 36:6. Prophet Ishmael, the ancestor of Arabs, cannot be considered a Prophet to them since Children of Ishmael multiplied and inhabited Arabia as the Arab community long after his death. See 2:125 and introduction to Surah 11 Hud).

28:47 Otherwise, if disaster struck them as a result of their own actions, they might say, "Our Lord! Why did You not send a Messenger to us, that we might have followed Your Revelations and been of the believers?"

28:48 And yet, now that the Truth has come to them from Us, they say, "Why is he not given the like of what Moses was given?" (The supernatural miracles they had heard about). But, did not the generations before this Revelation reject the Truth of what Moses was given? They used to say, "Two examples of delusion, supporting each other (Moses and Aaron)! And they went ahead, "Behold, we refuse to accept either of the two (brothers)."

28:49 Say, "Produce then, a Book from Allah that would offer better Guidance than either of these two (the Torah and the Qur'an) – and I shall follow it! Do it if you are men of truth."

[The Gospel is not mentioned here since, according to Jesus, he only came to fulfill the Law. Another point worth mentioning is that the Qur'an embraces all of the Truth that was given in the Torah].

28:50 And since they cannot respond to this challenge of yours, know that they are only following their desires. And who could be more astray than he who follows his own desire, devoid of Guidance from Allah? For, Allah does not intervene to guide people who displace Reason with desire.

28:51 Now, indeed, We have caused this Word to reach mankind step by step, so that they might take it to their heart. ('Wassalna' embraces 'step by step').

28:52 As for those whom We have given the Scripture before (and who understand that this Qur'an is a Divine Revelation like the ones before it) come to believe in this one as well.

28:53 And whenever it is conveyed to them, they say, "We believe in it, for it is the Truth from our Lord. Indeed, even before it we have been of those who submit (to a Supreme Authority)."

28:54 These will receive a twofold reward because they persevere, counter harsh behavior in a kind manner and distribute Our provision of guidance and sustenance among others. (13:22).

28:55 (Additionally) whenever they hear vain talk of ridicule, they withdraw from it decently and say, "To us our deeds and to you yours; Peace be upon you, we do not seek to join the ignorant. (25:72).

28:56 Verily, you cannot guide aright everyone you love, but it is Allah Who guides him who wishes to be guided. And He is best Aware of those who will be rightly guided. (2:272, 4:88, 10:99-100).

28:57 They (the Quraish) say, "If we were to follow the Guidance to which you invite us, we would be torn away from our land." Why – Have We not established for them a Secure Sanctuary, to which are brought all kinds of produce, a provision from Our Presence? But most of them do not make use of what they know.

28:58 And how many a town We annihilated, which exulted in their life of ease and plenty! Such that their most of their dwelling places have remain deserted after them. For it is indeed We alone Who shall remain when all else have passed away!

28:59 Yet, your Lord never destroyed townships unless He sent a Messenger in their midst (the big city) who conveyed Our Commands to them. And never did We destroy the townships unless the people thereof violated human rights.

28:60 And whatever you have been given is a comfort and decor for the life of the world. And that which Allah has is better and more lasting. Will you not, then, use sense?

28:61 Is, then, he to whom We have given a goodly promise which he shall see fulfilled comparable to the one whom We have given the good things of this life, but who on the Resurrection Day, is to be among those brought up for punishment? (24:55).

28:62 On the Day He will call unto them, and will ask, "Where, now, are My 'partners' that you imagined?"

28:63 Those against whom the charge will be proved, will say, "Our Lord! These are the ones we misled. We misled them only because we were astray ourselves. We now disown them before you. It was not us they worshiped."

28:64 And it will be said, "Call upon all your 'partners' - but the 'partners' will not answer them. Whereupon they will see the suffering – Ah, if they had allowed themselves to be guided!

28:65 And on the Day when He will call them and say, "What answer did you give to the Messengers?"

28:66 On that Day all arguments (they used to contrive) will be dimmed for them, nor will they ask one another.

28:67 But anyone who (in this life) repents and truly believes and helps others may well find himself among the successful.

28:68 Your Lord does create and choose according to His Laws. No choice do they have (against the Divine Laws). Glorified is Allah and High above all that they associate with Him. (In the ongoing Evolution in the Universe, species and nations advance according to the Law of Natural Selection).

28:69 And your Lord knows what their hearts conceal and what they reveal. (He is fully Aware of the subtle and manifest processes towards the fulfillment of His Plan).

28:70 For He is Allah, other than Whom there is no god. Unto Him is due all Praise, at the first and at the last. For Him is the Command, and to Him you shall be brought back.

28:71 Say, "Will you consider this: If Allah were to make the Night last over you till the Resurrection Day, what god is there other than Allah, who can give you light? Will you not, then, listen to the Truth?"

28:72 Say, "Will you consider this: If Allah were to make the Day last over you till the Resurrection Day, what god is there other than Allah, who can give you a Night in which you can rest? Will you not, then, see the Truth?"

28:73 For it is out of His Grace that He has made for you Night and Day – that you might rest therein, and that you may seek of His bounty – and so that you may be grateful.

28:74 And (think again) the Day He will call them, He will ask, "Where are My ‘partners’ whom you imagined?" (28:62).

28:75 And from every community We shall draw a witness (their Prophet) and We shall say to the rejecters, "Bring your proof for what you used to claim." Then shall they know that the Truth is indeed with Allah, and all they used to fabricate will forsake them.

28:76 Now, behold, Qaroon (Korah) was one of the people of Moses but he exalted himself and oppressed them (his own Hebrews). We had granted him such riches that his treasure-chests alone would have been a burden for a body of strong men (‘miftah = key. ‘maftah = chest under lock and key). Behold, his people said to him, “Exult not, for Allah does not love those who exult (in riches).”

(Korah, a cousin of Moses, was the chief slave driver for Pharaoh, and for his wealth and advisory position he was next in power only to Pharaoh, and equal to Haman. Historically, this legendary “Trio” of despotism + priesthood + capitalism, has always joined hands in the exploitation of the masses).

28:77 “But seek with the wealth Allah has bestowed upon you, the Home of the Hereafter. And do not forget your portion in this world. Be kind to people, as Allah has been kind to you. Do not create corruption and disorder in the land (such that the poor becomes poorer). Allah does not love the corrupters.”

28:78 He replied, "This wealth has been given to me because of the knowledge that is in me." Did he not know that Allah's Law of Requital had annihilated, before him, whole generations which

were superior to him in strength and richer in what they had amassed? But such guilty need no questioning since their guilt is obvious and yet, they are not exempt from the Law of Respite.

28:79 And so once he came out to his people in all his pomp. And those who cared only for the life of this world said, "Ah, we wish we had the like of what Qaroon has been given. Indeed, he is extremely fortunate."

28:80 But those who knew better said, "Woe unto you! Merit in the Sight of Allah is far better for anyone who believes and works for equity among people. (The real wealthy is one who believes in Divine Laws, helps the needy, and creates balance in the society). This reward is reserved for those who do not fall for instant gains, and work hard steadfastly."

28:81 And thereupon We caused the earth to swallow him and his dwelling. And he had none and nothing to help him against Allah's Laws, nor could he help himself.

28:82 And those who had envied his position only the day before were saying the next morning, "Ah, it is indeed Allah Who makes the provision plenty or scarce for His servants according to His Laws. Had Allah not been kind to us, He could have caused the earth to swallow us! Ah! The rejecters of the Truth can never attain lasting contentment."

28:83 That Home of the Hereafter We shall give to those who do not seek to exalt themselves in the earth, nor do they seek corruption and disorder. And the Future belongs to those who walk aright.

28:84 Anyone who brings actions that benefited others, the reward to him is better than what he has done. And anyone who is unfair in his dealings with others, such will be punished, but not more than the like of what they have done.

28:85 Verily, He Who has made this Qur'an a binding duty upon you (O Believers), will assuredly direct you to the Destination of Bliss. Say, "My Lord is best Aware as to who is rightly guided and who is obviously lost in error." (The Path to the Destination of Bliss has been well expounded in this Book).

28:86 (O Prophet) you never expected that this Book will be bestowed upon you. But it is a Mercy from your Lord (to all humanity). Hence, never uphold those who deny the Truth.

28:87 And let them not divert you from Allah's Revelations after they have been sent down unto you. But, invite people to your Lord and be not of the company of those who uphold systems other than the Divinely ordained System of Life.

28:88 (Keeping pristine the Divinely ordained System of Life) call not upon human 'authorities' and man-made systems as gods side by side with Allah. There is no god but He. Everything is mortal except His Eternal Self. To Him belong all Governance and all Judgment, and unto Him you shall be returned.

**Surah 29 – Al-'Ankaboot – The Spider**

[Author's note] This is the 29th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 69 verses. The weakest dwelling is that of the spider. Those who ignore the Divine System automatically choose ways of life that are as fragile as the home of a spider. This is an example for those who accept worldly masters and their parallel systems, and ignore the Divine Guidance. The Surah touches upon some history of the human behavior and their reaction to Divine Revelation, and gives us Permanent Injunctions to reflect on and follow.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

29:1 A.L.M. Allah, Aleem the Knower, Hakeem the Wise, says:

29:2 Do people think that they will be left (at ease) simply because they say, "We believe", and will not be put to a test? (Nay! Mere belief such as belief in Blood Atonement will never suffice for Salvation and Success 2:214, 3:141, 9:16, 33:10).

29:3 Yes, indeed, We did test those who lived before them. And so, most certainly, Allah will distinguish between those who are truthful from those who are liars.

29:4 Do those who treat others unfairly think that they can escape Us (Our Laws)? Bad, indeed, is their judgment!

29:5 One who looks forward to meeting with Allah, should have conviction that the end is bound to come – and He is the Hearer, the Knower.

29:6 Hence, whoever strives (in the Cause of Allah), strives for the good of his own “Self”. Allah is altogether Independent of His creation.

29:7 As for those who come to believe and help others, We shall blot out their previous misdeeds, and We shall certainly reward them generously for what they do.

29:8 (As among the best deeds) We have enjoined upon the human being kindness to parents. But, if they strive to make you ascribe divinity side by side with Me, this will conflict with your knowledge. Then, obey them not, for it is unto Me that all of you must return, whereupon I shall truly make you understand what you used to do. (31:14-15).

29:9 Those who accept the Divine Revelation and help create balance in the community, We will include them among those who have fulfilled their personalities.

29:10 Now of mankind there are such who say, "We do believe in Allah." But when they are made to suffer in Allah’s Cause, they think that persecution at the hands of people is Allah’s punishment. And if help comes from your Lord, they say, “Behold, we were with you all the while.” Is not Allah best Aware of what is in the hearts of all creatures?

29:11 Verily, Allah knows those who believe, and verily He knows the pretenders.

29:12 And some rejecters tell the believers, “Follow our way and we will bear your faults." Never in the least will they bear their faults. Behold, they are liars indeed.

29:13 And they will bear their own burdens, and in addition, the burden of misguiding others. And on the Day of Resurrection, they will be called to account for the lies they invented.

29:14 And, indeed, We sent Noah to his nation, and his Message survived among his followers a thousand years less fifty. The flood overwhelmed the rejecters, for they used to violate human rights.

29:15 And We saved him and his followers on the ship and We made this a lesson for all people.

29:16 (Over a thousand years after Noah, about the same location in Ur, Mesopotamia) Abraham - when he said to his people, "Serve Allah and be mindful of Him. If you bring this fact in the realm of your knowledge you will see that it is better for you.

29:17 You worship idols instead of Allah and spread false news about their powers. Behold, those you worship instead of Allah (such as the priesthood of the temple), do not own your provision. (If you establish the Divine System), Allah will guarantee honorable provision for you. Then, serve Him alone and be grateful by sharing His bounties with others. Unto Him you shall be brought back.

29:18 And if you deny – well, nations before you have denied the Truth (and suffered the consequences). The duty of a Messenger is only to convey the Message clearly."

29:19 Do they not see how Allah originates creation, then repeats it? (Think of the emergence of organic matter, its decay and then re-emergence of life). This, verily, is easy for Allah.

29:20 Say, "Travel in the earth and find out how He originated creation. And how afterward, Allah brings forth entirely new forms. Verily, Allah is the Designer of all things."

29:21 He requites individuals and nations according to His Laws, and bestows Mercy according to His Laws. And you are obliged to draw consequences from Him.

29:22 And never – not in decline and not in rise - can you hope to defy His Laws, and there is no protector or helper for you other than Allah. (In the context of change and evolution, the earth and the sky are here metaphorically applied to the low or high state of nations).

29:23 And thus it is: Those who deny Allah's Messages and meeting with Him – it is they – who shall abandon all hope of My Grace. And for them is an awful doom. (They disbelieve in the glad tidings and in the Law of Eternal Recompense).

29:24 (Abraham explained these facts to his people) but their only answer was, "Kill him or burn him alive!" But Allah saved him from their fiery rage. Behold, in this story there are signs for believers (such as, when people have no sensible answers, they resort to threats and violence 21:68, 37:96-97).

29:25 And Abraham said, "You have chosen idols (and their priests) instead of Allah, out of regard for your social bonds, good enough only in this worldly life. But then, on the Resurrection Day you shall reject one another and curse one another. And the Fire will be your destination, and there shall be no helpers for you.

29:26 And Lot believed in him all along. Abraham said, “I will quit this domain of evil and migrate in the Cause of my Lord, for He is Almighty, the Wise." (37:99). (From the Kingdom of Nimrod Shaddad, Abraham emigrated to Syria-Canaan. Lot who was Abraham’s nephew, was later commissioned as a Prophet and sent to Sodom and Gomorrah by the Dead Sea).

29:27 And We bestowed upon Abraham (a son) Isaac, and (a grandson) Jacob, and caused Prophethood and Revelation to continue among his progeny. And We gave him his reward in this world, and verily, in the life to come he shall be among those who have perfected their personality.

29:28 And Lot said to his nation, "Verily, you commit lewdness such as no people in Creation ever committed before you.

29:29 Do you not indeed approach males, and cut off the way of Nature? Do you not commit highway robbery? And do you not commit shameful vices openly in your assemblies?” But his people’s only answer was, "Bring down upon us the punishment of Allah if you are a man of truth."

29:30 He prayed, "My Lord! Help me against people who spread corruption and disorder."

29:31 When Our Messengers brought the glad news to Abraham (of a son Isaac), they also said, "We are appointed to herald the annihilation of that town, for its people are wrongdoers." (Abraham lived in Hebron, Palestine about 1800 B.C. From the heights in Hebron they could see the Valley of Sodom by the Dead Sea).

29:32 Abraham said, "But Lot is also there." They said, "We know fully well who dwell there. We will certainly save him, his household and his followers – all but his wife – she will be of those that stay behind (since she has stayed behind in belief)." (‘Ahl’ of a Prophet includes his household and his followers. 7:80-84, 11:70-89, 15:59, 21:71-76, 26:161-167, 27:54-56, 66:10).

29:33 When Our Messengers came to Lot, he was grieved on their account, for he could not protect them. But they said, "Fear not, nor grieve! Behold, we are appointed to save you, your household and your followers, except your wife who is of those who stay behind.

29:34 Verily, we are about to herald the heavenly Requital upon the people of this town because of their drifting away from Divine Values.”

29:35 And so it was – Therein indeed, We have left a Clear Sign for people who use their intellect. (The Dead Sea to this day is known as ‘Bahr Lut’ = The Sea of Lot and it remains devoid of plant and fish life).

29:36 And unto Midyan We sent their brother Shoaib (Jethro). He said, "O My people! Serve Allah, and look forward to the Last Day, the life to come, and do not act wickedly on earth spreading disorder and corruption."

29:37 But they denied him. Thereupon a dreadful earthquake overtook them, and morning found them dead, prone in their homes.

29:38 And (the tribes of) Aad and Thamud! Their fate is manifest to you from their ruined dwellings. Satan had made their doings seem goodly to them, and thus had barred them from the Path. And they were people who were endowed with vision!

[Their vested interests hindered them from coming to the Right Path. They were highly intelligent people. However, unjust systems wither away regardless of how smartly they are run. The capital of Aad was the legendary IRAM, the Town of Pillars that lies buried in the sand dunes of the second largest desert in the world after the African Sahara. Called 'Rub' al-Khali' = The Empty Quarter, this desert covers much of the Southeastern Arabian Peninsula. Iram is mentioned in 89:7. The tribe of Thamud had descended from Aad and, therefore, frequently referred to in history and ancient Arabic poetry as Aad-e-thani (Second Aad). Inscriptions and records dating as far back as 715 B.C. refer to them as Thamudenes and Thamudaei (Aristo, Ptolemy, Pliny). Rock inscriptions, dwellings and tombs decorated with animal sculptures still exist in the valley of Al-Hijr from Northern Hijaz to Syria.]

29:39 And such is the story of Qaroon (Korah) and Pharaoh and Haman! (They represented wealth, tyranny and priesthood, respectively, that go hand in hand in exploiting people). To them had come Moses with all evidence of the Truth, but they remained arrogant in the land. And surely, they could not escape. (28:6, 28:76).

29:40 For, every one of them We took to task for his trailing behind in human virtue. And so, upon some of them We let loose a deadly storm wind; and some of them were overtaken by a sudden blast; and some of them We caused to be swallowed by the earth; and some of them We caused to drown. And it was not Allah who wronged them, but it was they who wronged themselves. (The Law of Requital never discriminates between people, whether individuals or nations).

29:41 The likeness of those who choose patrons other than Allah, is that of the spider which makes for itself a house. And, behold, the frailest of all houses is the spider's house, if they would make use of what they know. (Its web easily traps the weak but cannot withstand the least bit of pressure).

29:42 Verily, Allah knows whatever they call upon instead of Him – for, He is Almighty, Wise.

29:43 And so We cite examples for mankind, but men of Science will make best use of their intellect. ('Aalim = Scientist. 30:22-23, 35:27-28).

29:44 (It is they who can best understand that) Allah has created the heavens and the earth with a definite Purpose. Verily, in that is a Sign for those who wish to attain conviction in the Truth.

29:45 (O Prophet) convey to people all that is revealed to you of the Book, and establish the Divine System. For, verily, establishment of the Divine System will shut off lewdness, stinginess and behavior contrary to the Divine Values. This is so, because Allah's Law is the Greatest Law that can give you eminence. And (O People) Allah knows whatever you contrive on your own. (21:10, 21:24, 23:70, 43:43-44, 70:21-27 - 'Fahasha' includes miserliness and 'Munkar' is all behavior that goes against Divine Values given in the Qur'an).

29:46 (The Divine System will be the Living Truth in itself, so) argue not with People of the Scripture except in a most kind manner. Tell those who adamantly relegate the Truth, "We believe in the Divine Origin of what has been bestowed upon us, as well as what has been bestowed upon you. For, our God and your God is One and the same and to Him we surrender." (2:79. 'Zulm' = To relegate or displace something from its rightful place).

29:47 And thus it is! We have bestowed this Book upon you (O Prophet). And many of those whom We gave the previous Scriptures will come to believe in it. (5:48). Also, many of your people will

believe in it. And none could knowingly reject Our Messages except such as would deny an obvious Truth.

29:48 For, (O Prophet) you were never able to read a book or Scripture before this (Qur'an), nor could you write anything with your own hand. Or else, they who try to disprove the Truth might have some cause to doubt it. (2:23. 'Biyameenik' = With your right hand = With your own hand).

29:49 Nay, but this consists of Messages clear to the hearts of all who are gifted with the knowledge of discretion. And none could knowingly reject Our Messages except such as would relegate the Truth.

29:50 And yet they say, “Why are not miracles bestowed upon him from his Lord?” Say, “These Verses are in themselves miraculous Signs concerning Allah and with Him are the miracles (you behold in the Universe). And as for me, I am but a plain Warner (drawing your attention to His Signs and to the consequences of your actions).”

29:51 Why - Is it not enough of a miracle for them that We have bestowed upon you this Book that is conveyed to them? For, verily, herein is Grace, and a Reminder, a giver of eminence to people who will accept it.

29:52 Say, “Allah suffices as Witness between me and you. He knows everything in the heavens and the earth. (6:136). Those who are bent upon believing in falsehood, and thus denying Allah – it is they, they who shall be the losers.”

29:53 Now they challenge you to hasten the requital. And indeed, if the term had not been set for it, that requital would have come upon them. (The Law of Respite applies to all people). Certainly, it will come upon them all of a sudden, while they perceive not.

29:54 They keep asking you to hasten the requital, but verily, Hell surrounds the rejecters of the Truth every moment of their lives. (79:36, 82:16. And every action is getting instantly imprinted on each “Self”).

29:55 The Day will come when suffering overwhelms them from above them and from beneath their feet, and He will say, “Taste now the fruit of your own doings!”

29:56 O You servants of Mine who have attained belief! Behold, vast is My earth; serve Me then, Me alone! (Live by Divine Values and work for the establishment of the Divine System wherever you may live).

29:57 (To that noble end strive with all you have, even with your lives since) every living being is bound to taste death. And then, all of you will be returned to Us.

29:58 Whereupon to all those who have attained belief, and worked for the betterment of humanity We shall certainly assign mansions in the Garden underneath which rivers flow, therein to abide. How excellent a reward for the workers! (25:75).

29:59 Those who are steadfast in adversity and in ease, and put their trust in their Lord.

29:60 How many are the creatures that carry not their own sustenance? It is Allah Who provides for them and you, for He is the Hearer, the Knower. (Establishment of the Divine System ensures honorable provision for everyone 6:152, 11:6).

29:61 And thus it is - if you ask them, “Who is it that has created the heavens and the earth, and made subservient the sun and the moon?” They will answer, ”Allah". How come, then, are they lost in the wilderness of thought! (The Creator must be the Law-giving Authority to mankind as He is in the entire Universe. 21:20-22, 23:84-88, 31:25, 39:38, 43:9).

29:62 Allah widens His provision to His servants (societies) according to His Laws, and He restricts it accordingly. For, Allah is Knower of all things (not excluding the best socio-economic Order for mankind).

29:63 And thus it is - if you ask them, “Who is it that sends down water from the height, and gives life with it to the earth, after it is has been dead?” They will surely answer, “Allah.” Say, “(Since this is so) all Praise is due to Allah alone!” But the majority of people fail to use their intellect (and realize that His Guidance can revive the living-dead and the ‘dead’ nations).

29:64 For, (if they did, they would understand that) the life of this world is nothing but a pastime and play – whereas, behold, the life in the Home of the Hereafter is the true life, if they but knew (that their actions in this short life will determine their Eternal abode).

29:65 And so (are they lost in this passing delight that), when they embark on a boat, they call unto God, sincere in their faith in the Divine Laws. But as soon as He has brought them safe ashore, behold, they resume their idolatry in various forms.

29:66 And thus they show ingratitude for all that We have given them, and go on thoughtlessly enjoying life. But soon will they know.

29:67 Have they not seen that We have set up a Sacred Sanctuary that We made a source of peace and security for people – while – all around them people are being carried away by fear and insecurity? Will they still believe in falsehood, and thus deny Allah’s Blessing? (The Divine System frees people from fear and insecurity).

29:68 And who can be a greater wrongdoer than he who invents a lie and attributes it to Allah, or denies the Truth when it comes to him? Is not there a home in Hell for those bent upon rejection?

29:69 As for those who sincerely strive for Us, We surely guide them onto paths that lead to Us. (New channels keep opening for them leading them out of the spider’s web onto the Straight Path). Indeed, Allah is with the benefic of Humanity.

**Surah 30 – Ar-Room – The Romans**

[Author's note] This is the 30th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 60 verses. As stated earlier, a Surah is not restricted by its title. The title is more important for reference purposes, and this Surah as well presents for us beautiful concepts in diversity.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

30:1 A.L.M. Allah Aleem the Knower, Hakeem the Wise, narrates that:

30:2 The Romans have been defeated.

30:3. In the lands close-by – yet it is they who despite this defeat of theirs, shall be victorious.

[Byzantine Romans were defeated at the hands of the Persians in the nearby lands of Syria-Palestine-Egypt in 613-615 C.E. The war between the two super powers of the times carried on from 603 to 624 C.E. Muhammad (s.a.w.) had been commissioned as Prophet in 610 C.E.]

30:4 Within ten years! For with Allah is the Command in the Past and in the Future. And on that day the believers too will have cause to rejoice.

[The believers were indeed victorious against the much stronger Makkans bent upon annihilating them at the most crucial battle of all history, the Battle of Badr near Madinah, in 624 C.E. This was exactly the time when the Byzantine Romans soundly defeated the Persians.]

30:5 By Allah's Help – for, He gives success to people according to His Laws. He is the Mighty, the Merciful.

30:6 This is Allah's Promise. Never does Allah fail to fulfill His Promise. But most people know not (that His Laws never change).

30:7 They know and care only about the apparent instant gratifications of the life of this world, and remain oblivious to the Eternal life to come.

30:8 Have they never learned to think for their own "Self"? Allah has not created the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them without Truth and for a Purpose and an appointed time. Yet, verily, a great many of people deny that they are destined to meet their Lord.

30:9 (Reflecting on your own existence, the Universe, and on history can show you the Truth.) Have they not, then, traveled in the land and seen what happened in the end to those who lived before them? They were more powerful than these are, and they left a stronger impact on the earth, and built it up better than these are doing. And to them came their Messengers with all evidence of the Truth. It was not Allah Who wronged them, but it was they who used to wrong their own "Self". (35:44, 40:21).

30:10 And once again - miserable is the end of those who deal with others unfairly, and since they denied Allah's Messages and ridiculed them (they failed to reform).

30:11 (All this happens to nations according to Divine Laws that are operational in the entire Universe.) He initiates the creation, and then repeats. Ultimately, all of you will be returned to Him.

30:12 And on the Day when the Hour will come those who have committed crimes against humanity, will be struck with despair.

30:13 Their 'idols' will not be able to stand up for them, rather, they will reject one another.

30:14 On the Day the Hour comes, they will part company. And people will be sorted out.

30:15 As for those who attained belief and fulfilled the needs of others, they will be made happy in a Meadow of delight. (42:22, 43:70).

30:16 Whereas those who rejected Our Messages in word or denied them in action, and denied the inevitable life to come, such will be given over to doom.

30:17 Extol, then, Allah’s limitless Glory evening and morning. (Find eminence through His Reminder in the twilight and dawn of your lives, whether individuals or nations. (21:10, 23:71, 29:45, 29:51).

30:18 Seeing that the heavens and the earth bear an open testimony that all Praise is due to Him, whether you observe them in the darkness of the night or in full blast of the daylight.

30:19 He it is Who brings forth the living out of the dead and brings forth the dead out of the living. And gives life to the earth after it had been lifeless. And thus it is – that you will be brought forth. (And thus can His Guidance revive nations.)

30:20 And among His Signs it is that He created you out of dust - and then, behold, you become human beings ranging widely. (6:2, 6:99, 7:11, 15:26, 21:30, 23:12, 31:28).

30:21 And among His Signs is this: He created for you mates from yourselves, so that you might find comfort in them. And He ordained between you love and kindness. In this, behold, are Signs for people who think. (AZWAJ = Husband + Wife, that are mates to, and complement each other towards fulfillment of each other’s personality).

30:22 And of His Signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the diversity of your tongues and colors. Herein, behold, are Signs for those who make best use of what they learn.

30:23 And among His Signs is your sleeping during the night or the day, and your quest of His Bounty. Herein indeed are Signs for people who hear and listen.

30:24 And among His Signs is this: He displays before you the lightning, for a fear and for hope, and sends down water from the height, giving life to the earth after it had been lifeless. Herein, behold, are Signs for people who use their intellect.

30:25 And among His Signs is this: The Sky and the Earth stand by His Command. In the end, when He will call you forth with a single call, behold, you will emerge from the earth.

30:26 For, unto Him belongs every being in the heavens and the earth. All are obedient to Him.

30:27 And He it is Who initiates creation in the first instance, and then brings it forth anew, and it is most easy for Him. His is the Sublime Similitude in the heavens and in the earth. (30:11. Light of the heavens and the earth He is 24:35). He is the Mighty, the Wise.

30:28 He gives you an example from your own society. Would you agree to make your employees equal partners in the provision We have bestowed upon you? Are you as mindful of them as you

are mindful of yourselves? (So do you conceive of a 'discriminating' God!) Thus do We explain Our Messages for people who use their intellect.

30:29 But nay, the transgressors follow their own opinions without knowledge. But who can guide him whom Allah has sent astray for violating His Laws of Guidance (4:88)? For such there are no helpers.

30:30 Therefore, set your purpose for the Upright System of Life. That resonates with Allah's Law of Origination (of the Universe) including the origination of mankind. Allah's Law of and for His Creation is unchangeable and, therefore, trustworthy. This Universal System is Perfect, but most people know not. (Allah has initiated the Universe with a Sublime Plan wherein all things are committed to His Law, and mankind being a part of that Plan, must live by His Law).

30:31 Turn unto Him alone then, and be mindful of Him, and establish the Divine System and be not of the MUSHRIKEEN who ascribe authorities along with Him. (2:213).

30:32 The MUSHRIKEEN who split up their religion, and become sects - each sect delighting in whatever beliefs they have. (3:104, 6:160, 23:53, 42:13. Sectarianism is invariably based upon taking humans as 'authorities').

30:33 Now when harm touches people they call unto their Lord, turning to Him alone. But as soon as He lets them taste Grace from Him, behold, some of them revert to worshiping their 'idols'.

30:34 This is how they show ingratitude for the Guidance We have given them. Enjoy yourselves awhile, but soon you will come to know!

30:35 Have We ever sent down to them any authority that tells them to commit SHIRK (associate others with God)?

30:36 And thus it is: When We let people taste Grace they are quick to rejoice therein. But when adversity befalls them as a result of their own works – behold, they are in despair! (Constancy in personality is attainable only by living upright).

30:37 Have they not seen that Allah enlarges the provision on whatever nation it is, according to His Law, and restricts it likewise? Behold, herein indeed are Signs for nations who will believe in the Divine Laws.

30:38 Hence, give to the relative his God-given Right, and to the needy, and whose business has stalled, and who has lost his job, and whose hard-earned income is insufficient to meet the basic needs, and the homeless son of the street, the needy traveler and the one who has traveled to you for help. This is best for those who seek Allah's Approval, for, it is they who are truly successful. (The Divinely ordained Economic Order will ensure equity and prosperity for all).

30:39 And the wealth you give in usury in order that it may increase on other people's money has no increase with Allah. But that you give in charity, seeking Allah's Approval, these are the ones who will have their return multiplied. (2:275-276, 3:129, 74:6).

30:40 Allah is He Who has created you and then has provided you with sustenance, and then will cause you to die, and then will bring you to life again. Are there any of your 'partners' who can do

any single one of these things? Glorious is He, and Sublimely Exalted Above the ‘partners’ they associate with Him.

30:41 Rampant corruption and disorder have appeared in the land and in the sea because of what people keep doing. He will let them taste some of their doings, so that they might return to the Right Path.

30:42 Say, “Travel in the land and notice the outcome of nations before you. Most of them worshiped idols in various forms (and ran man-made systems 30:31-32).”

30:43 Set your purpose resolutely for the Perfect Religion, before the inevitable day comes from Allah. On that day people will be in two groups.

30:44 Whoever rejects the Truth will suffer from that rejection, whereas all who do constructive deeds, will make goodly provision for themselves.

30:45 That He may reward out of His Bounty, those who accept the Message, and work to help others. Verily, He does not love those who refuse to acknowledge the Truth.

30:46 And of His Signs is this: He sends forth the winds that bear glad tiding, so that He might give you a taste of His Grace. And that ships might sail at His Command and so that you might go about seeking His Bounty, and that you might have cause to be grateful.

30:47 And indeed, We did send Messengers before you to their respective people – and they brought them clear evidence of the Truth. And then, We (Our Law of Requital) inflicted Our retribution on those who stole the fruit of others' labor and violated human rights. For We have made it incumbent upon Us to help the believers.

30:48 (Divine Guidance is a blessing for humanity just as) it is Allah Who sends forth the winds that raise clouds, and then spreads them along the high atmosphere according to His Laws. And causes them to pile up and then break and you see the rain pouring down from within them. And when He makes it to fall on His servants by His Laws, behold, they rejoice.

30:49 Even though before that, before it was sent down upon them, they were in despair.

30:50 Behold then these Signs of Allah's Grace - how He revives the earth after it had been lifeless. Verily, He is the Reviver of the Dead, and He is the Appointer of due measure of all things. (Similarly, His Guidance can revive individuals and nations).

30:51 But thus it is: if We send a wind and they behold it yellow, verily, they still continue in rejection of the Truth (that all things in the Universe take place according to Divine Laws).

30:52 And verily, you cannot make the dead to hear, nor can you make the deaf of heart to hear the call when they turn their backs and go away.

30:53 Nor can you bring the blind of heart out of their straying. You can make none to hear except those who believe in Our Messages (using their Vision) and are willing to live in submission to God.

30:54 It is Allah who creates you weak (as infants), then gives you after the weak state strength, then substitutes after the strength weakness and gray hair. All this happens according to His Laws of Creation. And He is the Knower, the Able.

30:55 (Since your life is short, your time is precious.) On the Day when the Hour rises, the guilty will swear that they lived in this world no more than an hour, (and that they didn't have time to reform). In fact they were wandering aimlessly through life.

30:56 But those who have been endowed with knowledge and conviction will say, "Indeed you did last within Allah’s decree, until the Resurrection Day. (Your “Self” never died). Now, this is the Resurrection Day that you never acknowledged."

30:57 And so on that Day no apologies of the wrongdoers will avail them, nor will they be allowed to make amends.

30:58 And verily, We have given numerous examples in the Qur'an for mankind. But even if you came with a miracle, those who are bent on denying would say, "You are only falsifiers."

30:59 In this way does Allah seal the hearts of those who wish not to learn.

30:60 Remain then, steadfast and remember that Allah’s Promise is always True. So let not those who have no conviction disturb your mind.

**Surah 31 – Luqman – Locomon**

[Author's note] This is the 31st Surah of the Qur'an. It has 34 verses. The reader is once again reminded that the Qur'an sticks with its style of unity in diversity, and the title does not restrict a whole Surah with itself.

Again, it is to be noted that the timing and the place of the Revelation of a Sur'ah is absolutely of no significance since the Book of Allah transcends temporal and spatial bonds. Long, contradictory and futile argumentation between the commentators about the SHANE-NUZOOL (the circumstance of a particular Revelation) are sheer waste of time and energy, and more noxiously, this exercise tends to shackle the Glorious Book to certain events of no significance. This point is proven to THE QUR’AN AS IT EXPLAINS ITSELF readers by the fact that at no point anywhere in the Mighty Book will they miss what 'caused' a certain Surah or Verses to be revealed.

Wisdom and knowledge transcend temporal, geographical and racial boundaries. Historically Luqman lived around 200 B.C. in an oasis in the Nubian desert of Northern Sudan. He was an emancipated slave of the African descent.

After diligently going through a great conglomeration of information, often conflicting, about Luqman I have reached some conclusions which are humbly presented here: (In fact, this was my answer over the internet to a bright gentleman, Gerald Etienne who would like to take this research further ahead).

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About Luqman

Posted By: Gerald Etienne

Date: Friday, 24 January 2003, at 9:48 p.m.

Dr. Shabbir,

Peace be unto you,

You said in your introductory note to surah 31 that Luqman was an emancipated black slave from Nubia (Sudan). Would you share a little bit more of your historical knowledge with us. I would like to do some research on this subject, maybe you can cite some biographical/historical sources for me or some other interested reader.

Keep up the good work. Salam

Gerald E.

-----------------------------------------------
Respected Gerald Etienne, Salams be upon you too!

I feel honored to receive communication and appreciation from you.

"Rahib Luqman Mua'ammar Nubi the Hakeem, Suqrat Thani - (Sage Locomon, the Aged, the Nubean, the Wise, Socrates the second" was his full name along with titles.

When I was a Colonel in the Middle East, I had occasion to meet with Libya's Col. Mu'ammar Al-Qaddhafi in 1980. He told me of his descent from Luqman, hence the name Mu'ammar.

-----------------------------------------------Your research will be made a lot easier if you knew that Luqman is famous as AESOP, his Greek name. Greece where he had been taken as a slave from NE Sudan in one of their Viking like raids through the Red Sea. The next challenge is to connect Aesop with Luqman. Here is the help:

Fables De Loqman Le sage, Derenbourg.

Encyclopedia of Islam, Luqman, B.Keller

-----------------------------------------------AESOP AND COMPANY: WITH SCENES FROM HIS LEGENDARY LIFE. Barbara Badre.

THE BEST OF AESOP's FABLES, Margaret Clarke.

AESOP'S FABLES, Anne Gatti

The last three only implicitly allude to the African origin of Luqman.

-------------------------------------------------As a child Luqman used to herd sheep, then as a young adult he had become a noted craftsman in carpentry. And that was the main reason for his abduction by the Greek pirates. Given the name AESOP, he lived in Greece under captivity for fifteen years serving his masters while writing his fabulous and world famous AESOP'S TALES. An affluent businessman bought from him his collection in return for his emancipation. Luqman lived to be 110 years old and died in his village in Nubia.

(AESOP, A MASTER OF MIND, by John Zepletal. TAFSIR DURRE MANTHUR. TAFSIR IBN KATHIR).

-------------------------------------------------Dear Sir, in the given references you will find the information about Luqman scattered like numerous pieces of the puzzle. You will have to make the whole picture yourself as I did to my satisfaction. In fact, that is true of all history especially when a figure as legendary as Luqman is under study.

Best wishes,
Yours sincerely,
Dr.Shabbir
-------------------------------------------------He was a very wise man, and copies of his notebook known as SAHEEFAH LUQMAN (The Scrolls of Luqman, produced in Greece) existed in the times of the exalted Messenger. Legend has it that a man read a few passages from that notebook to the exalted Messenger. He liked them and said, "Shall I now narrate to you a higher Wisdom?" Upon hearing a few verses of Surah Luqman that fan of Luqman instantly embraced Islam; and is now remembered as Hazrat Suwaid bin Saamit (r.a.)

Historians have speculated whether Luqman was a Prophet of God. But his famous quote implies that he was an intellectually and morally gifted man. When asked how and wherefrom he attained his outstanding wisdom, he responded, “From the ignorant!” (Yes, we can learn from any person, even from a child. And we can learn from our mistakes as well as from the mistakes of others).

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

31:1 A.L.M. Allah Aleem the Knower, Hakeem the Wise, narrates that:

31:2 These are the Messages of the Book, full of Wisdom.

31:3 Providing Guidance and Mercy to those who wish to live a balanced life and do good to humanity.

31:4 Such people strive to establish the Divine System and set up the Just Economic Order of Zakat. For, it is they who have conviction in the Eternity of the human "Self" and, hence, in the life to come.

31:5 They are the ones who are on the Guided Path of their Lord and they are the ones who will be ultimately successful.

31:6 But among people, there are those who invest their time in HADITH which is unfounded, so as to lead those without knowledge away from the Path of Allah, making mockery of it (the Qur'an). For such there is shameful punishment in store.

[In order to defend the 'Imams' of Hadith, some commentators try to explain away 'Lahwal Hadith' as music. This obviously makes no linguistic or contextual sense].

31:7 Whenever Our Verses are conveyed to such a purchaser of Hadith, he turns away in arrogance as if he never heard them - as if there were deafness in his ears. So give him the tidings of a painful doom.

31:8 Whereas those who believe in the Word of Allah and fulfill the needs of others, for them are the Gardens of delight.

31:9 To abide therein according to Allah's true promise. For, He is the Mighty, the Wise.

31:10 He has created the skies without any pillars and supports that you could see, and has placed firm mountains upon the earth, lest it sway with you, and He has dispersed therein all kinds of creatures. And We send down water from the sky, and thus We cause plants of every goodly kind to grow therein. (Mountains resulted millions of years ago as the earth was cooling off and the earth crust was shrinking 16:15, 78:7).

31:11 All this is Allah's creation. Now show Me what others instead of Him may have created. Nay, but those who relegate the Truth are obviously lost in error.

31:12 And indeed, We granted this Wisdom to Luqman, "Be practically grateful to Allah, for whoever is grateful is but grateful for the good of his own "Self". And whoever chooses to be ungrateful, must know that Allah is Self-Sufficient, Owner of all Praise."

31:13 And, behold, Luqman, enlightening his son, said this to him, "O My dear son! Never associate anyone with Allah, for, verily, SHIRK (believing in Law-givers besides Him) is a tremendous wrong."

31:14 "(And O My dear son! Allah says) - We have ordained upon man goodness to his parents. His mother bore him by bearing strain upon strain, and his utter dependence on her lasted no less than two years. (2:233, 46:15). Hence, be grateful to Me and to your parents, and remember that your ultimate destination is with Me."

31:15 "Yet, if they strive to make you ascribe partners to Me, that shall be obviously contrary to what you have learned – then obey them not. However, let your company be kind to both in this world. Follow the path of those who turn towards Me. In the end the return of you all is unto Me, and then I shall explain to you what you truly accomplished in life.

31:16 "O My little son! Verily, know that something even as tiny as a mustard seed, deep inside a rock, or in the Highs or in the Lows, Allah will bring it forth. For, behold, Allah is Sublime, Aware."

31:17 "O my dear son! Strive to establish the Divine System wherever you are, and advocate the doing of what is right and forbid the doing of what is contrary to the Permanent Values. And remain steadfast in the face of whatever may befall you by way of opposition and persecution. All this, behold, will require unwavering determination."

31:18 "And never be arrogant with people, and walk not haughtily on the earth. Behold, Allah does not love any bragging boaster. (17:37, 57:23).

31:19 “Hence, be modest in your pace and in your bearing, and lower your voice, for, behold the harshest voice is the braying of a donkey."

31:20 (This was some of the wisdom Luqman was endowed with.) Do you not realize that Allah has made of service to you all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth? And He has lavished upon you His Blessings, tangible and intangible. And yet, among people are those who argue about Allah without exploring the realm of knowledge, without taking the right approach, or a Book giving Light.

31:21 And when such people are told to follow what Allah has revealed, they say, "Nay, we follow that which we have found our fathers doing." What! Even though Satan had invited them to the doom of Flames?"

31:22 Now whoever submits his whole being to Allah and is a doer of good to others, has indeed grasped the Strongest Bond (2:256). And Allah’s Laws determine the outcome of all things and actions. (WAJH = Face = Whole being).

31:23 And let not the disbelief of the rejecters grieve you. To Us is their return, and then We shall explain to them all they truly accomplished. Verily, Allah is Knower of what is in the hearts.

31:24 We will let them enjoy themselves for a little while – but ultimately We shall drive them to a heavy doom.

31:25 And thus it is: If you ask them, “Who is it that has created the heavens and the earth?" They will answer, “Allah". Say, “All Praise is due to God – for, most of them do not know (that His Laws, too, are praiseworthy and worth implementing in your lives 29:61).

31:26 Unto Allah belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth. (His Law is operative in the entire Universe). Verily, Allah! He is Independent, Owner of all Praise (and the Universe is a living witness to that).

31:27 And if all the trees on earth were pens, and the sea were ink, with seven more seas yet added, the Words of Allah would not be exhausted (18:109). Verily, Allah is Almighty, Wise.

31:28 Your creation and your raising again are only as that of a single life cell. Verily, Allah is the Hearer, the Knower.

31:29 Do you not see that it is Allah Who makes the night grow longer by shortening the day, and makes the day longer by shortening the night? And that He has subjected the sun and the moon to His Laws, each running along its course for an appointed term? (13:2). Isn’t He Aware of all you do?

31:30 Thus it is - since Allah, He is the True, and what they call upon instead of Him is the False. He is the Exalted, the Great.

31:31 Have you not seen how the ships speed through the sea carrying Allah’s blessed provisions – so that He might show you some of His Signs? Herein, behold, are Messages for every person who would patiently observe the Nature and be grateful for learning.

31:32 And so, when violent waves surround them like shadows of gloom, they call unto Allah, sincere in their faith in Him (and work according to Divine Laws). But as soon as We save them ashore, some of them compromise (with falsehood). Yet none could knowingly reject Our Messages unless he is a betrayer to his own “Self”, ungrateful for such blessing.

31:33 O Mankind! Be mindful of your Lord, and stand in awe of the Day when no parent will be of avail to his child, nor a child will in the least avail his parent. Verily, Allah’s Promise is True. Let not (the instant gratifications of) the life of this world deceive you. And let not yourselves be distracted from Allah by anyone who deceives you (contrary to what Allah has told you about Himself in this Revelation).

31:34 Verily, with Allah alone rests the knowledge of the Hour; He it is Who sends down rain; and He Alone knows what is in the wombs. No one knows what he will reap tomorrow, and no one knows in what land he will die. Verily, Allah alone is Knower, Aware. (Hour = The Great Revolution + Resurrection ; Rain = Resurgence of humanity ; What is in the wombs = Of what character the offspring will turn out to be ; Reap tomorrow = What will happen to him tomorrow ; Land = Circumstance).

## Surah 32 – As-Sajdah – Adoration

[Author's note] This is the 32nd Surah of the Qur'an. It has 30 verses. By reminding us of our humble origin, this Surah shows us the way to attain self-actualization by following the Divine Light.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

32:1 A.L.M. Allah Aleem the Knower, Hakeem the Wise, narrates that:

32:2 This Book is, beyond any doubt, a Revelation from the Lord of the Worlds.

32:3 And yet they assert, “He has invented it.” Nay, it is but the Truth from your Lord, for you to warn a folk to whom no Warner has come before you, and so that they might get the Right Guidance. (Prophet Ishmael was the ancestor of, and not a Prophet to, the Arabs who became a community long after he passed on. See note 2:125, 28:46, 36:6. And the Message is to fan out from Arabia to all mankind 2:185, 3:3, 3:137, 6:19, 6:91, 10:2, 14:1, 25:1, 30:58, 39:41, 68:52).

32:4 Allah it is Who has created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them in six stages, and is established on the Throne of His Almightiness of Supreme Control (7:54). You have no patron and no intercessor beside Him. Will you not, then, bear this in mind?

32:5 He governs all that exists, from the celestial Highs to the Lows. And all things evolve higher to what they are meant to be in such stages where a single Day before Him equals a thousand years according to your count. (22:47, 35:10. And some of these stages span fifty thousand years each, of your count 70:4).

32:6 Such is the Knower of the Invisible and the Visible, the Mighty, the Merciful.

32:7 Who created everything in perfect balance. Thus He initiated the creation of man (kind) from hydrated inorganic matter.

32:8 Then He made him to be reproduced out of the essence of a humble fluid. (The inorganic matter was hydrated and from its extract life was initiated. Eventually, the evolution reached a point when procreation with male and female gametes was established 37:11).

32:9 (Then Emergent Evolution took place that distinguished humans from the Animal Kingdom.) He shapes him in accordance with what he is meant to be, and breathes into him (something) of His Energy. (This something is a special gift to the humans in the form of free will). And thus (O Mankind) He gives you the faculties of hearing, and sight, and feelings as well as minds. Yet, how seldom are you grateful by making the best use of your perceptual and conceptual faculties!

32:10 For, they say, “What! After we have been lost in the earth, shall we indeed be created anew?” Nay, but they deny the Truth that they are destined to meet their Sustainer.

32:11 Say, "The angel of death who is assigned for you, will collect you, and then you will be returned to your Lord." (The body dies but the “Self” lives on according to the Law of death).

32:12 If only you could see the guilty when they bend low their heads before their Lord, "Our Lord! We have now seen and heard. Return us, then, that we may do good works, for, now we are sure.” (33:99-100).

32:13 Had We so Willed, We could indeed have imposed Our Guidance upon every human being (like other creatures without free will). But the Word from Me will come true – I will fill Hell with people, rural and urban all together. (A great many people will succumb to their desires 15:39-40, 38:84-85).

32:14 It will be said, “Taste you then, for you remained oblivious of this Day of yours, and so, now We forget you - taste the lasting doom for what you used to do.”

32:15 Only they truly believe in Our Messages who, when they are reminded of them, fall into complete submission adoring, and strive hard to manifest their Sustainer’s Praise. (They establish the Divine System that is the living evidence of how benevolent His Guidance is). And they are never given to false pride.

32:16 They forsake their ‘comfort zone’ in calling people to their Lord, fearing that they have not done enough and hoping to do better. And they keep open for the needy the provision that We have given them. (‘Madhaje’ = Beds = Present circumstances = Comfort zone).

32:17 And no human being can imagine what blissful delights are kept hidden for them as a reward for what they used to do.

32:18 Is then, he who was a believer like the one who drifted away from the Divine Values? Nay, these two are not alike.

32:19 As for those who attain belief and fulfill their personalities by fulfilling the needs of others – are Gardens of Resort, as a welcome, for what they did.

32:20 But as for those who drifted away from the Truth, their Retreat will be the Fire. As often as they try to come out of it, they will be brought back into it. It will be said to them, “Taste the torment of the Fire that you used to deny.”

32:21 And verily, We make (the violators of the Divine Law) taste the punishment closer at hand before the Greater punishment, so that they might return to righteousness.

32:22 And who does a greater wrong than he who is reminded of his Lord’s Messages, then turns away from them? Verily, We shall requite all those who violate human rights by stealing the fruit of others’ labor. (‘Mujrim’ = One who steals the fruit of the toil of others).

32:23 And, indeed, We had given Moses the Scripture. So be not in doubt of his receiving it, and We appointed it a Guidance for the Children of Israel. (Therein is a lesson about the outcome of the deniers of Divine Revelation).

32:24 We appointed among them leaders who led them by Our Command since they were steadfast in their commitment and had conviction in Our Revelations.

32:25 (But later, the Children of Israel divided among themselves and lost their glory.) Verily, your Lord will decide between them on the Resurrection Day, regarding everything they disputed.

32:26 Is it not a guidance for them to realize how many generations We annihilated before them – in whose dwelling places they now go to and fro? Verily, in this, behold, are Signs. Will they not, then, listen?

32:27 Have they not seen how We lead water onto barren land, and thereby bring forth crops providing food for their cattle and for themselves (20:54)? Have they not the vision?

32:28 But they keep saying, “When will that decision be, if you are truthful?” (When will this Message bear fruit?)

32:29 Say, "On the day of decision (when the rejecters of the Truth will be overwhelmed), pronouncement of belief shall be of no avail to the rejecters then, nor will they be given further respite."

32:30 So withdraw from them and wait (for the Truth to unfold). Behold, they too are waiting.

## Surah 33 – Al-Ahzab – The Confederates

[Author's note] This is the 33rd Surah of the Qur'an. It has 73 verses. The Surah derives its name from different clans of Madinah and places around it as well as the Makkans who allied themselves together to eliminate the believers. They laid a siege around Madinah (627 AD) where the Prophet had sought asylum since July 16, 622). It defines social responsibilities and etiquette of men and women. As usual it embraces other concepts and, most importantly declares that the exalted Prophet Muhammad is the last Message-bearer to mankind. Let us walk through the meadow.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

33:1 O Prophet! Be mindful of Allah and heed not the deniers of the Truth and the hypocrites. Verily, Allah is Knower, Wise.

33:2 And follow that which is revealed to you from your Lord. Allah is Aware of all you people do.

33:3 And put your trust in Allah, for, Allah is Sufficient as Guardian.

33:4 Allah did not give any man two hearts in his chest. (You cannot be a believer and a disbeliever at the same time). And He never regards your wives as your mothers because of your senseless utterances, such as your declaring them as your mothers. (2:226, 58:2-4). Nor does He regard your adopted sons as your biological sons. These are mere words that you utter with your mouths, but Allah declares the Truth and shows the Way.

33:5 Name your adopted children after their fathers; that is more just in the Sight of Allah. And if you do not know who their fathers were, then they are your brothers, sisters and friends in Faith. (You shall treat them as family members). There is no blame on you for an unintentional mistake. What counts is the intention of your hearts, for Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

33:6 The Prophet is closer to the believers than their own selves and their own people. (Seeing that he is as a father to them), his wives are their mothers. In accordance with Allah's decree the relatives have a higher claim (in matters of inheritance) than other believers and the immigrants. Nevertheless, you are to deal with your friends in kindness. All this is recorded in this well-written and well-scored Book. (2:180, 4:11, 9:111, 33:53, 48:10).

33:7 And, behold, We did take a pledge from all the Prophets - from you (O Prophet) as well as from Noah, and Abraham, and Moses, and Jesus son of Mary – We took a very solemn pledge from all of them. (3:81).

33:8 That the Prophet might make the truthful feel responsible for upholding their truth. And He has readied grievous suffering for the rejecters.

33:9 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Remember Allah's blessing on you, when there came down on you armies (enemy troops from different clans laid siege around Madinah). But We sent against them a violent wind, and forces that you saw not (courage, steadfastness and discipline). And Allah is ever Seer of what you do.

33:10 Behold, they came upon you from above you and from below you, and when eyes were terrified, and hearts throbbed, and you began to entertain doubts about Allah.

33:11 There and then were the believers tried, and shaken with a mighty shock.

33:12 And recall when the hypocrites and those who had doubt in their hearts, said to one another, "Allah and His Messenger promised us nothing but delusion."

33:13 A group among them said, "O You people of Yathrib! There is no stand possible for you, so, go back." And some of them even sought permission of the Prophet, saying, "Behold, our homes are exposed (to the enemy)." (With the believers firmly entrenched around the town) their homes were not really exposed. They wanted nothing but to flee. (Yathrib = Madinah).

33:14 Now if the enemy had invaded the town from all sides and these hypocrites were asked to inflict harm on the believers, they would have done so without delay.

33:15 Although before that they had pledged to Allah that they would not turn their backs (to Faith and against invasion). A pledge to Allah must be answered for.

33:16 Say, "Flight will not avail you if you flee from death or being killed. You are not to enjoy life but for a little while."

33:17 Say, "Who is there that could keep you away from Allah if He intends harm for you, or Grace for you?" They will not find that they have any patron or helper other than Allah.

33:18 Allah already knows those of you who hinder, and those who say to their groups, "Come you here unto us!" And rarely do they mobilize for defense.

33:19 They are miserly in dealing with you (believers). But when danger threatens, you can see them looking to you (for help, O Prophet), their eyes rolling in terror like one who is overshadowed by death. Yet once the fear has departed, they assail you believers with sharp tongues in their greed for wealth (from the spoil of war). These have never known belief, and, therefore, Allah makes all their deeds fruitless. That is easy for Allah (a spontaneous action of Allah's Law of Requital).

33:20 They think that the enemy clans have not withdrawn. And if the confederate clans come back, these (hypocrites) would prefer to be in the desert with the Bedouins, asking for news about you, from far away. And if they were among you, they would only pretend to fight.

33:21 (You saw the Messenger standing as a rock in the most adverse circumstances.) Verily, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example, for everyone who looks unto Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah much. (60:4).

33:22 And when the believers saw the clans, they said, "This is what Allah and His Messenger promised us. Truly spoke Allah and His Messenger!" And it only added to their faith and their zeal in submission.

33:23 Of the believers are men who have been true in what they pledged with Allah. Some of them have fulfilled their vow by laying their lives, and some of them stand ready, unwavering. (9:111).

33:24 That Allah may reward the truthful for having been true to their word, and cause the hypocrites to suffer – or accept their repentance according to His Laws. Verily, Allah is Forgiving, Merciful. (33:8).

33:25 And Allah repulsed the disbelievers in their fury; they gained no advantage. Allah sufficed the believers against the attack. For, Allah is Strong, Al-mighty.

33:26 Those People of the Scripture who allied with the clans (despite having a treaty with you), have been taken out from their forts and strongholds, and panic has struck their hearts. Some of them were killed in the battle and others were taken prisoners of war. (The Jewish tribe, Bani Quraizah had violated the treaty, although another Jewish tribe, Bani Nadir of Khyber had also been among the confederates).

33:27 And He made you inherit their lands, their houses, and their wealth and land you have not trodden. Allah has Supreme Control over all things, and all events take place according to His Laws. (24:55).

33:28 O Prophet! Tell your wives, “If you desire the life of this world and its glitter – well, then, I shall provide you to your contentment and let you go in a becoming manner.” (The Prophet had chosen not to keep a standard of living higher than the poorest of Madinah, and the mothers of believers were seeing other women living in relative affluence).

33:29 “But if you desire Allah and His messenger, and the Home of the Hereafter, then, verily, Allah has prepared for the benevolent among you an immense reward.”

33:30 O Wives of the Prophet! (You will be seen as role models for other women, therefore), if any of you displays unseemly conduct, double would be her suffering, for indeed, that is easy for Allah.

33:31 And whoever of you is devout in the service of Allah and His Messenger, and helps augment the society, We shall give her reward twice-over, for, We have readied for her a most excellent sustenance.

33:32 O Wives of the Prophet! You are not like other women. If you live upright, then, be not over-soft in speech, lest he in whose heart is a disease aspire (to you). But speak in customary kindness.

33:33 And abide in your homes in quiet dignity, and do not make a dazzling display like that of the former Times of Ignorance. Help establish the Divine System and the Just Economic Order, and obey Allah and His Messenger. And Allah wishes to keep away all vices from you, O Members of the Household, and to purify you to utmost purity (of character).

33:34 And bear in mind all that is recited in your homes of Allah’s Messages and Wisdom, for, Allah is Sublime, Aware.

33:35 Verily, for:

- Muslim men and Muslim women.
- Believing men and believing women.
- Committed men and committed women (committed to Allah’s Cause).
- Truthful men and truthful women.
- Steadfast men and steadfast women.
- Humble men and humble women.
- Charitable men and charitable women.
- Abstaining men and abstaining women (abstaining from all vices).
- Chaste men and chaste women.
- Men who remember Allah much and women who remember (Him much).

(For them) Allah has readied the protection of forgiveness and an Immense Reward. (3:194, 4:124).

33:36 It is not fitting for a believing man or a believing woman, when a matter has been decided by Allah and His Messenger, to claim freedom of choice concerning themselves. And whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger, he has indeed, gone astray in error manifest.

33:37 [In personal matters you may respectfully disagree with Muhammad in the capacity of a human being (3:78). As an example]: Behold, (O Prophet) you did tell the one to whom Allah had shown Favor and to whom you had shown favor, “Hold on to your wife and be mindful of Allah. You seek to conceal in your heart what Allah intends to reveal. You are afraid of people whereas it is more appropriate to fear Allah.” But when Zayd had observed all the rules and divorced her, We gave her to you in marriage. So that henceforth there may be no blame on the believers in respect of spouses of their adopted children when they have come to the dissolution of their union. And the Commandment of Allah must be fulfilled. (Contrary to many erroneous translations, the entire quote in this verse is addressed to Zayd since Messengers fear none but Allah 33:39. Also the admonition of the Prophet to Zayd clearly indicates that he, and not his wife, was at fault).

33:38 There can be no difficulty to the Prophet in what Allah has assigned unto him as a duty. That was Allah’s Law for those who passed on before (the previous prophets). And the Command of Allah is a well-determined Decree.

33:39 Those who convey Allah’s Revelations and fear Him alone, shall never fear anyone but Allah. And Allah is Sufficient to take account.

33:40 Muhammad is not the father of any man among you, but he is Allah’s Messenger and the Closing Seal of all Prophets. And Allah, indeed, is Knower of all things.

33:41 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Remember Allah with much remembrance. (Keep Allah’s Message before you a great deal. Now it will be up to you to carry the His Message to mankind (3:110, 35:32).

33:42 And strive to establish His Glory on earth morning and night (48:9).

33:43 He it is Who bestows His blessings upon you, and supports you, and His angels, that He may bring you forth from darkness into the Light. And Merciful is He, indeed, to those who attain belief. (2:155-157, 9:10314:1, 14:15, 33:56).

33:44 Their salutation on the Day they meet Him is, "Peace". And He has readied for them a Generous Reward.

33:45 O Prophet! Behold, We have sent you as a witness and a herald of good news and a Warner. (The Divine System that you establish will be a watcher over humanity to ensure international justice and peace. Give them the good news of what the System can accomplish, and warn them of the harm without it 2:143).

33:46 And to invite to Allah by His leave, and as a Lamp radiant with light.

33:47 Give good news to the believers that they shall have a Great Bounty from Allah.

33:48 And heed not the rejecters and the hypocrites. Disregard their insults, and put your trust in Allah. Allah is Sufficient as Guardian.

33:49 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When you wed believing women, and divorce them before you have touched them, then there is no waiting period for them (to marry another man). Make decent provision for them and let them go in a becoming manner. (2:228-241, 4:3, 4:19, 4:35, 4:128, 33:49, 58:1 65:1-4).

33:50 O Prophet! Behold, We have made lawful to you your wives to whom you have given the marital gift, and those women who have sought asylum with you and signed the marital contract (6:10). Also lawful for you in marriage were daughters of your paternal uncles and aunts, and the daughters of your maternal uncles and aunts who had migrated with you. And lawful for you is a believing woman who offers herself freely to the Prophet and whom the Prophet might be willing to wed. This latter is but a privilege for you, and not for other believers. We have already made known what We have decreed regarding their wives and women who have sought asylum in their homes. This arrangement is designed to ease any social difficulties on you (O Prophet, as the Head of the State). Allah is Absolver of imperfections, Merciful.

33:51 You may let any of your wives leave amicably if they so wish, and likewise you may keep close those who accept the extra responsibilities as the mothers of believers (33:6, 33:28). If you reconcile with anyone you had estranged, you commit no error. This will gladden their eyes, their grief will disappear and all of them will be content with whatever you give them. Allah alone knows what is in your hearts, and Allah is Knower, Clement.

33:52 Henceforth, no other women shall be lawful to you (O Prophet), nor can you substitute anyone with other wives even though you admire their beauty and qualities. None beyond those you already have. Verily, Allah is Watchful over all things.

33:53 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not enter the Prophet's homes unless you are given permission. When invited to dine, arrive not too early waiting for preparation of the meal. When you are invited, come at the appointed time, and when you have finished eating, disperse. Linger not in the quest of HADITH (vain talk). Behold, this might hurt the Prophet, and he would be shy to say so. But Allah is not shy of telling you what is Right. And if you ask something you need from the ladies (the household of the Prophet), ask them from behind the curtain. This is good for your hearts and for their hearts. (Respect of privacy is an essential component of mutual respect). It is not for you to hurt the Messenger, nor that you should ever marry his wives after him. Verily, this would be a great offense in the Sight of Allah. (They are their mothers 33:6).

33:54 Whether you reveal anything or conceal it, verily, Allah is Knower of all things.

33:55 There is no blame on women to relax their privacy with their fathers, their sons, their brothers, sons of their brothers, sons of their sisters, their womenfolk or their servants. But, O Women! Be mindful of Allah – for, behold, Allah is Witness to everything. (24:31).

33:56 Verily, Allah and His angels bless the Messenger and support his Mission (33:43). O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Bless him and give yourself up to him and his Mission in total submission. (4:65, 7:157).

33:57 Verily, those who malign Allah and His Messenger, Allah will deprive them of His Grace in this world and in the Hereafter. He has readied for them a humiliating punishment.

33:58 And those who malign the believing men and the believing women undeservedly, they bear the guilt of slander and manifestly drag down their own humanity.

33:59 O Prophet! Tell your wives, your daughters, and women of the believers that they should draw their outer garments over their person (when in public 24:31). This is easy and proper, so that they may be recognized and not bothered. Allah is Absolver of imperfections, Merciful.

33:60 Thus it is. If the hypocrites and they in whose hearts is a disease, and the alarmists in the City do not cease, We indeed give you the authoritative mastery over them. Then they will be your neighbors no more than a short while.

33:61 Accursed, they will be seized wherever found and slain one and all. (That is the penalty for men who keep annoying innocent women on the street, assault them or rape them).

33:62 That was the Way of Allah among those who lived before. And never will you find any change in Allah's Way. (The Divine Laws in the Universe never change, and the Law of Requital never fails to requite).

33:63 People ask you about the Hour. Say, "The knowledge of the Hour is with Allah alone. Yet for your purposes, the Hour may be near."

33:64 Verily, Allah rejects those who reject the Truth, and has readied for them a blazing Fire.

33:65 Therein to abide forever, they will find then no patron nor helper.

33:66 On the Day when their faces shall be tossed about in the Fire, they will say, "Oh, We wish we had obeyed Allah, and obeyed the Messenger."

33:67 And they will say, "Our Lord! Behold, we obeyed our clergy and the leaders and it is they who led us astray from the Path."

33:68 "Our Lord! Give them double punishment and banish them from your Grace." (14:28, 16:25, 34:31-33).

33:69 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Never be like those who hurt Moses, and Allah caused him to be proven right. He was of great honor in Allah's Sight.

33:70 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be mindful of Allah and speak words straight to the point.

33:71 He will adjust your works for you, and protect you from trailing behind in humanity. Verily, one who obeys Allah and His Messenger has gained a signal victory. (4:31, 42:37, 53:32).

33:72 Verily, We did offer the trust of compliance to the heavens, and the earth, and the mountains and they, being fearful, breach not what is entrusted upon them. Yet man, with his free will, is the only one who breaches this trust of compliance. For, verily, he wrongs himself without knowing it. (Haml = Accept or bear and = Betray the trust - Like Haram = Forbiddingly bad and = Sacred).

33:73 And so it is. (After making the Laws clear, and giving them the free will, Allah holds mankind accountable for their actions). Allah imposes suffering on the hypocrite men and hypocrite women, and the idolaters and idolatresses. And so it is too that Allah pardons believing men and believing women, and Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

**Surah 34 – Saba – Sheba**

[Author's note] This is the 34th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 54 verses. Queen Bilqis of the Kingdom of Sheba had a strong and prosperous Empire but they worshiped the sun along with smaller deities, hence, their social system was not without inequities. They also liked to invade other lands. King Solomon, the Prophet, subdued the hostility of her Kingdom without a fight and she saw the Divine Truth. That was around 950 B.C. Sheba is the name of the Kingdom that once prospered in today's Yemen, Somalia and Ethiopia. This impoverished region of today was the wealthiest Kingdom at its zenith, which was the time of Queen Bilqis of Sheba. For a little more account of their history, please see Surah 27, An-Naml. After Bilqis, the Kingdom of Sheba lasted, with ups and downs, until 115 B.C. when they were over-run by a Southern warrior people Bihair. This Surah mentions the history of this Kingdom shortly before their annihilation in 115 B.C. As usual the Surah touches upon diverse concepts. The Qur'an being a Book of Guidance refers to history only enough to provide us with lessons.

It is worth noting that the Qur'an describes especially the stories of David, Solomon and Sheba in allegorical terms since the Arab poetry and folklore spoke of them as such and the allegorical expression of the Qur'an instantly struck a chord with the initial addressees.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

34:1 All Praise is due to Allah to Whom belong all things in the heavens and all things in the earth. The entire Universe manifests His Praise in its design, action, discipline and splendor. And for Him is the Praise in the Hereafter, and He is the Wise, the Aware.

34:2 He knows all that enters the earth, and all that comes out of it, and that which descends from the high atmosphere and that which ascends to it. And He is Merciful, Forgiving. (He nourishes the entire Cosmos and absolves imperfections).

34:3 And yet the disbelievers say, "Never will the Hour come upon us." Say, "Nay, by my Lord, it is coming to you. By the Knower of the Unseen, it will most certainly come upon you. (The Great Revolution in this world and the Hour of Resurrection are bound to come). Not an atom's weight in the heavens and the earth, escapes His Knowledge, nor is hidden anything smaller or larger, but it is recorded in a Clear Record.

34:4 That He may reward those who attain belief and serve others with wealth and person, and thus grow their own personality. For them is the protection of forgiveness and honorable provision of mind and body."

34:5 Whereas those who strive against Our Revelations trying to defeat their purpose, theirs will be a suffering of painful anxiety.

34:6 Those who make use of the perceptual and conceptual knowledge that they have been given, see that the Revelation to you (O Prophet) from your Lord, is the Truth. And that it leads to the Path of the Almighty, the Owner of Praise.

34:7 But those who are bent upon denying, say, "May we show you a man who says that after you are dispersed in dust completely - lo and behold! - You will be created anew?"

34:8 "Has he invented a lie against Allah or is he a madman?" Nay, but those who disbelieve in the life to come are suffering in the wilderness of thought and in a profound error.

34:9 Have they not observed the heaven and the earth however little lies open before them, and however much is hidden from them? If We so Willed, We could have caused the earth to swallow them, or caused masses from the sky fall down upon them. Therein, behold, is a Sign for every servant who turns to his Lord.

34:10 We bestowed upon David bounties from Us, and commanded thus, “O Tribes of the Mountains! Join him in establishing My Glory on earth." And so were commanded the fierce riders of the Taer Tribe. And We made the iron soft for him. (David mastered iron technology 21:79, 27:15-16).

34:11 (And We said to him), “Set up means for making coats of armor, and design a strong defense (with infantry and cavalry) linked in command. And (O People of David) you all shall use this power to serve humanity. Verily, whatever you do, I am Seer thereof.”

34:12 And unto Solomon, We committed the wind at his disposal. (He mastered the science of sailing and his ships sailed much faster than the others). They sailed one month going and one month coming back. And We gave him abundance in mining of copper and minerals and subdued for him the Wild Tribes who worked for him by his Lord’s leave. (Solomon established the Divine System such that) whoever turned aside from Our Command, We made him taste a severe punishment (21:82, 38:37).

34:13 They worked for him as he desired, making forts, sculptures and images, pools, and boilers well-dug into the ground. We said, “Labor O Children of David, in gratitude for what you have been given. Few of My servants are truly grateful in practice.”

34:14 When We decreed death for him (Solomon), nothing showed his death to the Wild Tribes until a creature of the earth ate away the strength he had mustered. When the power base fell, the Wild Tribes rebelled regretting that they should have done it sooner only if they knew the new unjust King. (The ‘creature of the earth’ was the highly incompetent son Rehoboam, and successor of Solomon 38:34. Historically, ten of the Israelite Tribes also broke away from the Kingdom at that point).

34:15 The People of Sheba had a homeland that was a marvel indeed, with gardens on the right and the left (Yemen-Somalia-Abyssinia). “Enjoy what your Sustainer has provided for you, and render thanks to Him - a goodly land and a Sustainer Absolver of imperfections.”

34:16 But they turned away from Divine Values and We sent on them the Flood of the ‘Arim’ released from water dams. And We turned their Gardens into ‘gardens’ producing wild bitter fruit, and a thorny Lote-tree here and a tree there.

[The ruins of the greatest of these dams ‘Maarib’ exist in Yemen indicating that it was at least two miles long and 120 ft. high]

34:17 This was Our Requital for their ingratitude. Do We ever punish anyone but the ungrateful? (Ingratitude = Refusing to share Allah’s bounties in equity. It appears that in the Kingdom of Sheba people were divided into two classes, the very rich and the very poor).

34:18 And We had set, between them and the towns We had blessed (Syria-Palestine), many oases with townships within sight of one another, and thus We had made traveling easy, “Travel safely in this land by night or by day.”

[Before the destruction of the Sheba Empire, there were beautiful oases and towns from Ethiopia-Somalia-Yemen to Syria-Palestine, and business flourished through the highways and international trade through land and sea. Journey had been made easy for them with secured rest areas day and night. On the highway from Yemen to Jerusalem they had built 700 luxurious rest areas for the busy caravan route. Their trade extended to India in the East, Egypt-Sudan in the West, Kenya-Uganda in the South and Syria-Palestine in the North.]

34:19 But now, their ungrateful attitude was saying, “Our Lord! Make our journey-stages longer.” (Make the trade route insecure, unprofitable and deserted). They wronged people and thus harmed themselves. Consequently, We made them history, and We scattered them utterly.

[Mass-migration from Maarib, the Capital, and Yemen, the Center of their Empire got dispersed as wandering tribes Northward in the Arabian Peninsula and Southward in Africa]. Herein, behold, are Signs indeed for individuals and nations who would patiently draw lessons from history and learn to be practically grateful.]

34:20 And indeed, Iblis found them meeting his expectations. All of them followed their selfish desire - barring a few who had remained believers in the Divine Values. (7:17, 17:62).

34:21 And yet he (Iblis) had no power at all over them (15:38-41). But We thus distinguish between those who believe in the life to come from those who keep doubting it. And your Lord is Watcher over all things. (Those who deny the Law of Requital easily succumb to their desires).

34:22 Say, “Call upon those whom you imagine beside Allah! They have not an atom’s weight of power either in the heavens or in the earth, nor have they any share in either, nor does He need any of them as a helper.”

34:23 No intercession is of any avail with Him except that one stands up as a witness of Law in His Court. When their hearts are calmed down, they will ask, “What did your Lord decide?” The witnesses will say, “The decisive Truth.” He is the Most High, Most Great.

34:24 Say, “Who grants you provision from the heavens and the earth?” Say, “Allah” and see for yourself who is rightly guided and who is in error, we or you?” (You wish to keep the God-given resources unto yourselves and we insist on an equitable distribution).

34:25 Say, “You will not be asked of our wrongs, nor shall we be called to account for what you are doing.”

34:26 Say, “Our Lord will bring us all together, then He will lay open the Truth between us. Verily, He is the Exponent of truth, All-Knowing.”

34:27 Say, “Point out to me those whom you associate with Him as partners. Nay – nay, but He alone is God, the Almighty, the Wise."

34:28 Now (O Messenger) We have sent you as a bringer of glad news and a Warner to mankind at large, but most people are (at this time) unaware of this fact.

34:29 They keep saying, “When will the promise be fulfilled, if you believers are men of truth?”

34:30 Say, “The promise of the Day that you can neither postpone nor hasten by an hour, is yours.”

34:31 And the rejecters say, "We will not believe in this Qur'an, nor in the previous Scriptures." If you could only see these transgressors when they are made to stand before their Lord, how they blame one another. The followers will tell their proud leaders, "If it were not for you, we would have been believers."

34:32 The leaders will say to the weak commoners, "Why – did we drive you away from the Guidance when it had come to you? Nay, it is you who were guilty (of blind following)."

34:33 The commoners will say to their leaders, "Nay, you were the ones who schemed night and day to set up systems that we were forced to follow, instead of Allah. It is you who set up (yourselves as) rivals against Him." Both parties will then be ashamed when they see the Requital. We will put shackles around the necks of all those who rejected the Truth. Is their retribution anything but what they earned with their own actions?

34:34 Whenever We sent a Warner to any community its rich elite declared, “Behold, we reject the message you are sent with.”

34:35 And they further said, "We are more than you in wealth and children and party and we cannot be made to suffer."

34:36 Say, "Behold, my Lord enlarges and narrows the provision to people according to His Laws (and hence, you see the change in fortunes). But most people are not aware (that the Divine System ensures prosperity for all). ”

34:37 And it is not your wealth nor your children and party that will bring you closer to Us, but he who truly believes and helps others. Such people will have a twofold reward for their deeds. It is they who will dwell in secure mansions. (25:75).

34:38 Whereas those who strive against Our Revelations trying to make them ineffective, will be given over to retribution.

34:39 Say, “Behold, my Lord enlarges or narrows provision for His servants according to His Laws. (20:124). Whatever you spend on others, He replaces it. (2:261). For, He is the Best of providers.”

34:40 The Day He gathers all people He will ask the angels, "Did they worship you?” (Did they think that the forces of Nature randomly ran the Universe)?

34:41 They will answer, "Glory is Yours! You are our Master, not them. Nay, they used to worship the invisible guises of their selfish desire. Most of them were believers therein.” (Jinns = Hidden from sight. Generally this term in the Qur’an applies to nomads rarely appearing in townships. It is also used to describe rebellious desire, emotions and fiery temperament like Satan 6:101, 18:50, 37:158, 55:15).

34:42 That Day you will have no power to help or harm one another and We will tell the transgressors, “Taste the doom of Fire which you used to deny.”

34:43 When Our Verses are conveyed to them in all clarity, they say, "This is only a man who wants to divert you from what your ancestors used to worship." And they say, "This is nothing but an invented lie." Those who disbelieve say of the Truth when it reaches them, "This is nothing but an obvious magic."

34:44 But We never gave them any Scriptures that they study, nor did We send unto them before you any Warner.

34:45 Thus too, nations before them had rejected the Message. These people have not received a tenth of the power and wealth that We had bestowed upon them. Yet, when they denied My Messengers, (see) how awesome was My rejection!

34:46 Say, "I ask you to do just one thing: For Allah's sake! Stand up in pairs and singly – and then think! There is no madness in your companion. He is only a Warner unto you in the face of a terrible doom."

34:47 Say, "Whatever reward do I ask you, it is yours. My reward rests with none but Allah, and He is Witness unto everything."

34:48 Say, "Verily, my Lord makes the Truth prevail - He Who is the Profound Knower of the Unseen." (Of all True and False that may not be evident to you).

34:49 Say, "The Truth has now come to light and falsehood will hide its face, nor shall (the Days of Ignorance) come back."

34:50 Say, "When I was searching for the Truth, I was searching for the Truth for myself. And now I am rightly guided because of that which my Lord has revealed unto me (93:7). He is the Hearer, Ever-Near."

34:51 If you could but see, when they will be terrified with no escape and seized at a place nearby.

34:52 And will cry, "We now attain faith."

34:53 They adamantly rejected the Truth before and they kept shooting the arrows of conjecture from faraway.

34:54 As a result, a barrier will be set between them and what they desired, as will be done for people of their kind of older times. For, behold, they too were lost in doubt, suspicion.

**Surah 35 – Faatir – The Originator**

[Author's note] This is the 35th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 45 verses. Allah is the Creator and the Originator of all things, meaning that He creates from nothing. He Initiates matter.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

35:1 All Praise is due to Allah, the Originator of all Highs and their Lows, Who appoints His angels as message-bearers having wings two, three and four. (Many of the angels, the physical laws in the Universe, have more than one function). He increases in creation what He Will. For, Allah is the Appointer of due measure of all things, and He is Able to do all things.

35:2 Whatever Grace Allah opens for mankind, none can withhold it. And whatever He withholds, none can release, for He is the Almighty, the Wise. (He uses His Might in Mercy and Wisdom).

35:3 O Mankind! Think of the blessings of Allah upon you. Is there any creator other than Allah who provides for you from the heaven and earth? There is no god but He. How could you wander in the wilderness of thought!

35:4 (O Messenger) if they deny you, Messengers before you were also denied. But all affairs ultimately end up in His Court.

35:5 O Mankind! Indeed Allah's Promise is true. (The Law of Requital is an inevitable reality). So let not the present life deceive you, nor let the Deceiver deceive you about Allah. (Deceiver = Satan = Selfish desire. Also misguided people and their propaganda).

35:6 Behold, Satan is a foe unto you; so treat him as a foe. He only calls his party to become companions of the Blazing Fire.

35:7 For those who are bent on rejecting the Truth, is a severe retribution. And for those who accept the Truth and work for the welfare of others, is the protection of forgiveness and a great reward.

35:8 Can you think of he whose persistence in evil blunts his sensitivity - so that his deeds seem fair to him? Verily, Allah lets go astray any who wants to go astray, just as He guides any who wants to be guided. Therefore, waste not yourself in sorrowing over them. Verily, Allah is Aware of all that they contrive.

35:9 And Allah it is Who sends the winds and they raise a cloud; then We lead it unto a dead land and revive the earth after it had been lifeless. Thus is the Resurrection (and revival of individuals and nations with Divine Guidance).

35:10 Whoever desires dignity should know that to Allah belongs all Dignity. Unto Him ascend all good words, and He exalts the works that help others. (That is how individuals and nations can ascend in honor). But those who plot imbalance in the lives of others, for them is severe punishment and their plotting, in the end, will come to naught.

35:11 (Recall your common humble origin.) Allah created you from dust, then from male and female gametes, and then He makes you pairs. And no female becomes pregnant, nor gives birth without His Knowledge (according to His Appointed Science, without exceptions). No one lives long, and no one lives short, but by His Law (3:144). Behold, all this is easy to Allah.

35:12 (Observe the diversity in Nature.) Thus the two seas (and subsoil waters) are not alike. One is fresh, good to drink, the other undrinkable, salty (25:53). Yet, from either of them you eat tender meat and extract ornament that you may wear. And you see ships sailing through the waves seeking His Bounty, so that you may have cause to be grateful.

35:13 He makes the night grow longer by shortening the day, and makes the day grow longer by shortening the night. And He has committed the sun and the moon to service, each running to an appointed term. Such is Allah, your Lord – unto Him belongs all Dominion. And those whom you call upon instead of Him, do not own so much as the husk of a date-stone. (4:53, 4:124).

35:14 When you call them (the dead ‘saints’), they don't even hear your call, and even if they were to hear they won’t be able to respond to you. On the Day of Resurrection they will disown your ‘partnership’. And none can inform you like the One Who is Aware.

35:15 O Mankind! It is you who stand in need of Allah. And Allah! He is the Absolute, the Owner of Praise.

35:16 If He Will, He can do away with you and bring some new creation.

35:17 This is not at all difficult for Allah.

35:18 And no person, being already burdened with his own doings, will be made to carry the burden of another. And if a laden one calls for help with his load, none may carry part of it even if he is a close relative. Hence, you can warn only those who understand their Lord’s Law of Requital knowing that even their actions done in secrecy have consequences. So, such people follow the Divine Commands closely. Whoever grows in virtue does so for the good of his “Self”. And the destination of all is to Allah.

35:19 The blind of reason and the seeing are not equal.

35:20 Nor are the Darkness and the Light.

35:21 Nor the cooling shade and the scorching heat.

35:22 Nor are the living equal with the dead. Behold, Allah makes him hear who wants to hear. You cannot make hear the dead of heart like those who are in the graves.

35:23 You are but a Warner.

35:24 Verily, We have sent you with the Truth, as a bearer of glad news, and a Warner. And there is not a nation but a Warner has passed among them.

35:25 (O Prophet) if they deny you, those before them also denied. Their Messengers came to them with all evidence of the Truth, and with Books of Divine Wisdom, and the Scripture giving light.

35:26 Then My Law of Requital seized the rejecters of the Truth, and how intense was My rejection!

35:27 Have you not seen that Allah causes water to fall from the height. And from the same water We produce fruit and flower of different color, just as in the mountains are streaks of varying colors - white, red, and varying shades of black.

35:28 And of human beings, and other creatures, and the cattle have diverse colors. This is how it is: of all His servants only the ULAMA get some idea of the Glory of Allah (by examining the wonders in Nature. ULAMA = men and women of scientific knowledge. They understand that) Allah is Almighty, the Absolver of imperfections.

35:29 Verily those who read the Scripture of Allah (in Nature) and follow Allah's Commands, and spend on others the provision We have given them secretly and openly, are conducting business that will never perish.

35:30 He will pay their wages and give them yet more of His Bounty. He is Absolver of imperfections, Responsive to gratitude.

35:31 And (O Prophet) all that We have revealed in this Book to you is the very Truth, confirming the Divine Origin of the previous Scriptures. For, behold, of the needs of His servants Allah is fully Aware, all-Seeing.

35:32 And so, We have bestowed this Book (on you) as a heritage from Our servants whom We chose. And among people are those who (ignore it and thus) hurt themselves. Others will have a lukewarm attitude toward it, and some who, by Allah’s leave, will be foremost in attaining all the good in it. That! Indeed that is, the Great Bounty.

35:33 Hence, the Gardens of Eden of eternal bliss will they enter, therein to be adorned with bracelets of gold and pearls, and therein to be dressed in garments of silk. (And right here in this world they will establish a society in which life will be pleasant and honorable 22:23).

35:34 And they will say, "All praise to Allah Who has put away grief from us. Verily, Our Lord is Absolver of imperfections, Responsive to gratitude.

35:35 Who, out of His Bounty, has settled us in the mansion of Eternity. Neither do we experience toil herein, nor any sense of weariness.” (20:118).

35:36 But for those who reject the Truth, is fire of Hell. Therein they neither end up dying nor is the torment lightened for them. Thus We requite all those who remain ungrateful (for the Guidance).

35:37 And in that suffering they will cry, "Our Lord! Get us out of here. We will do right, not that we used to do." Did We not give you a life-long opportunity replete with reminders for whoever would bethink? And a Warner had come to you. Taste then the fruit of your transgressions, for there is no helper for the transgressors of Divine Laws.

35:38 Verily, Allah is the Knower of the Hidden realities of the heavens. Behold, He is Knower of what is in the hearts.

35:39 He it is Who has given you supremacy in the earth (2:30). So whoever denies this blessing, his denial is upon him. Their denial increases their deprivation according to the Laws of their Lord, and their denial only increases their own loss (causing them to be content with a subhuman existence).

35:40 Say, "Have you seen your ‘partners’ whom you call upon besides Allah? Show me what they created of the earth! Or have they any share in the heavens? Or have We given them a Scripture

as evidence to prove their fallacies?" Nay, those who exploit the weak, support one another with delusions.

35:41 Verily, it is Allah Who upholds the celestial bodies and the earth, so they deviate not from their course. And if they were to deviate, there is none, no one whatsoever that can uphold them after He ceases to uphold them. Verily, He is Clement, Absolver of imperfections.

35:42 Thus it is, yet – they used to swear by Allah with their most solemn oaths that if a Warner came to them, they would follow his guidance better than any nation ever could. But now that a Warner has come unto them, it arouses in them nothing but aversion.

35:43 Their arrogance in the land and their evil schemes! Yet an evil scheme engulfs its designers. Are they waiting for anything but the way the ancients were dealt with? Yes! No change you will ever find in the Laws of Allah, and no deviation you will ever find in the Laws of Allah.

35:44 Have they not traveled in the land and seen what happened to those before them? And they were greater in might than these are. Allah is not such that anything in the heavens and the earth could foil His Authority, for He is Knower, Supreme Controller.

35:45 Now if Allah took mankind to task by that which they earn by their deeds, He would not leave a creature on its surface. However, He grants them Respite unto an appointed term. And when their term comes to an end, then, verily, they come to know that Allah is ever Seer of His servants. ('Not leave a creature' - Life on the planet earth exists for and manifests itself in the highest form as the humans 2:30, 35:39).

## Surah 36 – Ya-Seen – Yasin - O Human being!

[Author's note] This is the 36th Surah of the Qur'an. Among the Arabian Tribes ‘SEEN’ was in use as the abbreviation of INSAN = Human being, hence, 'Ya-Seen' = O Human being! And since it is addressing the Prophet, one of his blessed titles is Yasin. This Surah has 83 verses. Along with its conceptual diversity, it sheds light on the relationship between Allah and His creation and the ongoing changes that take place in Nature.

Unfortunately, it has been a common practice among the ignorant to open the Qur'an only to recite this Surah beside a dying person hoping that this would ease the process of dying! The profound manner in which this Surah presents life, death and Resurrection perhaps leads them to think so.

But the Qur'an is a Guide for the living to journey through life in its Light. And it is not a book of mantras or magic.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

36:1 Y.S. YASIN! O Human being, to whom this Divine Writ is revealed!

36:2 The Wise Qur'an is a witness in itself that:

36:3 Verily, you are one of the Messengers.

36:4 On a Straight Path.

36:5 It is a Revelation of the Almighty, the Merciful.

36:6 That you may warn a people whose ancestors were not warned, and who are, therefore, unaware of what is right and what is wrong.

36:7 The Word is bound to come True that since most of them will deny the Message they will suffer the consequences.

36:8 Behold, around their necks We (Our Laws) have put shackles, reaching their chins. Their heads are forced up in arrogance (like the agitated camel who keeps his head high refusing to drink the life-giving water).

36:9 And We have set a bar before them and a bar behind them, and thus have covered them that they cannot see. (They neither look to the future nor derive any lesson from history).

36:10 Whether you warn them or you warn them not, it is the same for them. Their attitude bars them from attaining faith.

36:11 You can only warn him who reflects, and fears (violating the Universal Laws of) the Beneficent even in privacy. Unto such give the good news of forgiveness and a most honorable reward.

36:12 Verily, We give life to the dead, and We record all they send before them and their footprints. And all things and events are recorded in a Clear Record. (What the humans do, the imprints of their actions on their “Self” and what they leave for posterity).

36:13 Make them understand in Symbolic Form: The People of the Town when Messengers came to them.

36:14 When We sent to them two Messengers, they denied them. We then strengthened them with a third and they said, "Verily, We have been sent unto you."

36:15 But the people said, "You are nothing but human beings like us. The Beneficent has never revealed anything. You are but lying.” (6:91, 34:31).

36:16 Said the Messengers, "Our Lord knows that we have been indeed sent to you.

36:17 And our duty is only to convey the Message clearly."

36:18 The people said, "We consider you bad omens. Indeed, if you desist not, we will surely stone you, and grievous punishment will befall you at our hands."

36:19 The Messengers replied, "Your destiny rests with yourselves, now that you have been reminded. (There is no such thing as a bad omen 17:13). Nay, but you are a people who are wasting away your potentials.” (10:12).

[The Symbolism being used here is most aptly applicable to Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (salutations to them all). All three were commissioned in a similar cultural environment, hence, the Town. All three preached strict Monotheism, were denied, threatened and persecuted or migrated. And the first two were strengthened by the Final Messenger of Allah to carry the Divine Message to people of all times and places.]

36:20 At that, a man came running from the farthest end of the Town and said, "O My people! Follow these Messengers.

[This man from the farthest end represents the believers who journeyed a long way from the Falsehood to the Truth.]

36:21 Follow those who ask you no reward, and who are rightly guided."

36:22 He continued, “Why should I not serve Him Who has originated me, and unto Whom you all will be returned.

36:23 Should I take gods instead of Him? But then, if the Laws of the Beneficent harm me, their intercession cannot help me at all, nor can they save me.

36:24 Then, behold, I would have been lost in error manifest.

36:25 Verily, I have come to believe in your Lord. Listen, then, to me!”

36:26 And this man was told, “You shall enter Paradise.” He exclaimed, “I wish my people only knew.

36:27 That my Lord has absolved my imperfections, and has made me among the honored ones.”

36:28 And after that, We did not send down any army from the sky against his people (of the Town), nor do We ever send.

36:29 Nothing but a single Blast (of Requital), and behold! They were ashes, still and silent.

36:30 Ah, the anguish for the servants, they have to bear! Never has a Messenger come to them, but they did mock him!

36:31 Have they not reflected how many a generation We (Our Law of Requital) annihilated before them. They turned not to their Messengers and, hence, returned not to their lost glory.

36:32 All of them, all together, will be presented before Us.

36:33 And yet, there is a Sign for them in the lifeless earth which We revive and We bring forth from it grain so that they eat thereof. (Divine Revelation can, likewise, revive dead nations and make them fruitful for humanity).

36:34 And We produce therein gardens of date palm and grapevines, and We cause springs to gush forth therein.

36:35 That they may enjoy the fruit thereof – And! Their hands made this not. Will they not then be grateful in word and action?

36:36 Glory to Him Who has created pairs of everything that the earth grows, and of themselves, and of things they have no knowledge yet.

36:37 And a Sign for them is the night. We withdraw from it the day, and behold, they are in darkness.

36:38 And the sun: it runs its appointed course. That is the measure of the Almighty, the Knower. (The sun along with its system is moving to the Solar Apex, Constellation of Hercules, at a speed 150 miles per second, according to the current science).

36:39 And the moon: We have measured for it phases until it becomes (a crescent) like an old curved date-stalk.

36:40 It is not for the sun to overtake the moon, nor can the night outrun the day. All of them swim along in their orbits. (The sun cannot cause the moon to gravitate towards itself and the night and the day cannot lengthen or shorten other than the appointed measure 21:33, 22:61, 25:62, 31:29, 41:37, 57:6).

36:41 Another Sign for them is that We carry the Children of Adam on the loaded ship.

36:42 And We have created for them similar things to ride on. (And will create things of which you have no knowledge yet 16:8).

36:43 We could down them, drown them according to Our Laws, with none to respond to their cry of help - and then they cannot be saved.

36:44 But as a Mercy from Us, We let them enjoy life for a while.

36:45 And yet, when it is said to them, “Walk aright learning from every yesterday, so that you may build a future worthy of Grace,”

36:46 - No Message of their Lord’s Messages reaches them without them turning away from it.

36:47 And when it is said to them, “Spend on others of the provision Allah has given to you,” the rejecters say to the believers, “Shall we feed anyone whom Allah could have fed if He so willed? You people are obviously lost in error.” (6:149, 16:35, 43:20).

36:48 And they (change the subject asking), “When will this warning be fulfilled, if you are men of truth?” (That our system of life, if it is wrong, will crumble).

36:49 Well, nothing awaits them but a single Blast of Requital that will overtake them while they keep contending.

36:50 And they shall not even have time to utter their last wish, nor will they be able to get together with their families.

36:51 And when the Trumpet is blown, behold, out of their disintegrated states unto their Lord they will run.

36:52 They will exclaim, “Oh, woe unto us! Who has awakened us from our beds of sleep? This is what the Beneficent promised, and the Messengers spoke the truth.”

36:53 Nothing but a single Blast, no more, and behold, before Us all of them will be presented.

36:54 “This Day no person will face the least injustice, nor will you be rewarded other than what you had been doing."

36:55 "Behold, those who merit Paradise, this Day are enjoying the new life.”

36:56 They and their spouses in pleasant shades, on thrones of honor reclining.

36:57 Theirs the fruits of their good deeds, and theirs all that they will ask.

36:58 Greetings from a Lord Merciful, “Peace!”

36:59 “But stand aside Today, you violators of human rights who thrived on others’ toil!”

36:60 Did I not warn you O Children of Adam! That you shall not worship Satan, your desire – since verily, it is an open enemy to you,

36:61 And that you serve Me alone? This is the Straight Path.

36:62 Yet he led astray a great many of you. Did you not, then, have any sense?

36:63 This is the Hell you were warned about again and again.

36:64 Burn in it now for you adamantly rejected the Truth.

36:65 This Day We seal their mouths, but their hands speak unto Us, and their feet bear witness to what they earned.

36:66 Had We so Willed, We could have made them devoid of Vision that would make them unaccountable for whichever way they went. (Without free will like the Animal Kingdom).

36:67 And had We so Willed, We could have degraded them driven by instincts, powerless to advance or retreat in their potentials.

36:68 Such as, he whom We grant long life, We cause him to revert to weakness. Will they not then use their intellect? (That they must use their full potentials).

36:69 (Know about the Prophet that) We have not taught him poetry, nor is it meet for his dignity. This is no less than a Divine Reminder and an Articulate Qur’an clear in itself and clearly showing the Way. (26:224).

36:70 That it may warn everyone who is alive of heart and that the Word may prove True concerning the rejecters. (That violation of the Divine Laws brings Requital in both lives).

36:71 Have they never envisioned how We must have created for them of Our Handiwork, the domestic animals of which they are now masters?

36:72 And that We have made them submissive to humans so that some of them they use for riding and others they consume.

36:73 And may derive yet other benefits from them and milk to drink. Will they not, then, be grateful?

36:74 But, nay, they have chosen gods other than Allah hoping that they might be helped.

36:75 It is beyond their power to help them, and in effect such people end up guarding their false gods like committed hosts.

36:76 So let not their utterances grieve you. Behold, We know what they conceal and what they declare.

36:77 Does not man realize that We created him from male and female gametes? Yet, behold, he stands forth as an open contender of Truth!

36:78 And he makes comparisons for Us and forgets the fact of his creation, saying, “Who will revive these bones when they have crumbled to dusty?” (37:16, 73:3).

36:79 Say, “He will revive them Who brought them into being in the first instance. Yes, for He is the Knower of all acts of creation.

36:80 (The same Creator) Who produces for you fire out of the green tree, so that, behold, you kindle from it.

36:81 Is not He Who created the heavens and the earth Able to create the like of them? Yes indeed – for He is the Creator, Knower of all acts of creation.

36:82 When He intends a thing, His only Command to it is “Be” and it is.

36:83 Glorified is He in Whose Hand rests the Mighty Dominion over all things, and unto Him you will be brought back. (And every step of yours heads to His Law of Requital 37:16, 73:3).

## Surah 37 – As-Saffat – Soldiers in Ranks

[Author's note] This is 37th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 182 verses. The diversity of concepts in this Surah is remarkable. It clarifies the relationship between the life of the world and the life to come. It slates the ‘occult sciences’, clairvoyants, diviners, soothsayers and the fortunetellers. It tells us what the great sacrifice of Prophets Abraham and Ishmael truly was, contrary to the mythical stories found outside the Qur’an. It also clarifies for us the legend of ‘Jonah and the Whale’.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

37:1 Those vanguards who set up ranks (in order to defend the Divine System).

37:2 And those officers of the state who help maintain law and order.

37:3 And those believers who convey the Reminder.

37:4 (Are the living witnesses that) – Verily, most surely, your God is One.

37:5 He is the Lord of the heavens and the earth and everything that is between them (the intergalactic material) - And the Lord of the sunrises (and of the Light-giving Revelation).

37:6 Behold, We have beautified the lowest heaven nearest to the earth with ornaments, the stars and planets.

37:7 And made them secure against every satanic force (The Revelation brings an end to the false claims of the fortune-telling astrologers 15:16-18).

37:8 Repelled faraway from the Truth, the ‘occult sciences’ despite their boisterous claims, can get not a hint of what Divine Revelation is.

37:9 Outcast and theirs is a lasting torment.

37:10 Even if a thing of their conjecture comes to pass, they are pursued by a Flame of Brightness. (The Divine Revelation exposes the claimants of the 'occult sciences' 18:22, 26:210-212, 52:38, 67:5, 72: 8-9).

37:11 And ask them to enlighten you, “What is more difficult and stronger – their creation or the rest of Our creation in the multiform Universe? Them (the humans) We have only created out of a sticky clay.

37:12 Nay, but whereas you (O Prophet) marvel at the Universe, they mock - and again you marvel at their mocking!

37:13 They take not to heart the wonders of Nature when reminded.

37:14 And they turn to mockery every Wonder that they see!

37:15 And of the Revelation they say, “This is nothing but magical eloquence.”

37:16 “What! When we are dead and have become dust and bones, shall we then be raised again?

37:17 And even our forefathers?”

37:18 Say, “Yes, indeed. And you will be brought low.”

37:19 There will be a single Rebuke, and then, behold, they will begin to see.

37:20 And they will say, “Oh, woe unto us! This is the Day of Judgment.”

37:21 Yes - This is the Day of Decision you used to deny.

37:22 “Bring you up”, it will be said, “The transgressors and their companions and the leaders whom they obeyed,

37:23 Instead of Allah, and lead them onto the path to the Blazing Fire. (‘Azwaj’ in 37:22 = Companions).

37:24 Halt them! For, they must be questioned.

37:25 What is the matter with you that you help not each other?

37:26 Nay, but this Day they make full submission.

37:27 And they will turn to one another asking, demanding.

37:28 Some will say, "You used to approach us in power."

37:29 The leaders will reply, "Nay, it were you yourself who were devoid of Faith.

37:30 And we had no power at all over you. Nay, you were a people of unrestrained conduct.”

37:31 But now the Word of our Lord has come to pass about all of us. Verily, we are bound to taste the fruit of our deeds.

37:32 So then, if we misled you, behold, we ourselves were astray.”

37:33 And on that Day, verily, they will be partners in a common doom. (14:21, 33:67, 34:32, 40:47).

37:34 Behold, this is how We deal with the guilty.

37:35 For when it was said to them, “There is no god but Allah”, they showed arrogance.

37:36 And used to say, “Shall we give up our gods for a mad poet?”

37:37 Nay, but he brought the Truth, and he confirmed the previous Messengers.

37:38 Behold, you will indeed taste the grievous suffering.

37:39 And you are requited only for what you have done.

37:40 But the sincere servants of Allah.

37:41 Theirs shall be a sustenance known to them (2:25).

37:42 As the fruits of their labor, and they shall be honored.

37:43 In the Gardens of Delight.

37:44 Facing one another upon thrones of happiness.

37:45 A cup from a gushing spring of Bliss brought around for them.

37:46 Crystal clear, delicious to those who drink.

37:47 No headache or hangover in it, nor will they get drunk. (56:19).

37:48 And in their company will be mates of modest gaze, endowed with vision.

37:49 Faultless like the hidden ostrich eggs (of unblemished character).

37:50 And they will all turn to one another asking (socializing).

37:51 One of them speaks thus, “Behold, I had a close companion.”

37:52 He used to ask me, “What! Are you of those who affirm?

37:53 That after we have died and become mere dust and bones, we will be called to account!”

37:54 A voice will be heard, “Will you people like to look at him?”

37:55 And then he looks and finds his companion in the midst of the blazing fire.

37:56 He says to the companion in the fire, “By God! You had almost ruined me too.

37:57 Had I not earned the blessing of my Lord, I would surely be of those given over to punishment.

37:58 Are we then never to die (O My Companions of Paradise)!

37:59 After our former death, and that we will never be among the suffering!

37:60 Verily, this – this indeed, is the Supreme Triumph.”

37:61 For such an end should work all workers.

37:62 Is this better as a welcome or the inedible cactus (the bitter tree of harming others 17:60, 44: 43-44, 56:52)?

37:63 Verily, We have appointed it a torment for the oppressors.

37:64 For, behold, it is a tree that springs in the heart of the blazing Fire. (Harming others, oppression and violation of human rights build one’s own Hellfire. Likewise, humans earn Paradise with their own hands 7:42, 16:32, 17:9, 29:55, 40:40, 47:2).

37:65 Its growth like cobra heads. (‘Shaitan’ and ‘Jaann’ = Serpent, Cobra. 38:41-44, Harming others harms one’s own ‘Self’ 25:43).

37:66 Verily, from it they must eat, and fill their bellies with it. (37:68).

37:67 And, behold, above all this they have a drink of burning despair.

37:68 And once again, verily, the blazing Fire is their destination.

37:69 For, verily, they had found their fathers on the wrong path.

37:70 But they made haste to follow their footprints.

37:71 This is how, indeed, most of the people of the old had gone astray before them.

37:72 And verily, We had sent Warners among them.

37:73 Behold, then, what happened to those who had been warned.

37:74 Except for the sincere servants of Allah.

37:75 And it was so when Noah cried to Us. Behold, how excellent are We as Responder.

37:76 For, We saved him, his family and his followers from the great distress. (‘Ahl’ or the Household of a Prophet includes his followers).

37:77 And made his progeny and followers survive.

37:78 And We left his remembrance for later generations.

37:79 Peace and salutation to Noah in the Worlds!

37:80 Verily, this is how We reward the benefactors of humanity.

37:81 Behold, he was one of Our truly believing servants.

37:82 And We caused the others to drown.

37:83 And verily, to his group (of believers, later) belonged Abraham.

37:84 When he came to his Lord with a noble heart.

37:85 And thus spoke to his father and his people, “What is that you worship?”

37:86 It is a falsehood. Do you desire gods besides Allah?

37:87 What do you think of the Lord of the Worlds?”

37:88 And he glanced at the stars. (6:76-78).

37:89 And said, “Behold, I am sick (of you worshiping false deities).” (60:4).

37:90 At that they turned their backs and went away from him.

37:91 Then Abraham gently turned to their idols and said, “What! You do not eat?

37:92 What ails you that you speak not?”

37:93 Then he turned upon them, striking them with the right hand (struck them hard).

37:94 The people came running to him.

37:95 He said, “Do you worship that which you carve with your own hands,

37:96 When Allah has created you and your handicraft?

37:97 They said, “Build a structure for him and fling him into the blazing fire.”

37:98 But as they schemed against him, We brought them low.

37:99 And he said, “Behold, I am going to my Lord Who will guide me (to refuge 29:26).

37:100 (Abraham emigrated to Syria and prayed), “My Lord! Grant me the company of the righteous, and children who will be righteous.”

37:101 So We gave him the good news of a clement son (Ishmael).

37:102 And when he was old enough to strive along with him, Abraham said, “O My dear son! I have a vision that I must give you to a life of test and tribulation for a Noble cause (37:107). So look, what do you think?” He said, “O My father! Do what you are commanded. God willing, you will find me of the steadfast.” (‘Zibh’ & ‘Zabh’ = Sacrifice = Disregard comfort for a Noble cause. Just as ‘Qatl’ = Killing, fighting, humiliating, to bring low).

37:103 As both of them had surrendered themselves (to Allah), he made Ishmael prostrate on his forehead in gratitude. (Contrary to popular tradition Abraham never envisioned or intended to slaughter his son).

37:104 We called unto him, “O Abraham!

37:105 You have already affirmed the vision. We – This is so - We must reward the doers of good.

37:106 This was indeed a Trial, clear in itself. (Leaving the prestigious office of Chief Priesthood in Babylon and now the comfort of Syria for the wilderness of Makkah).

37:107 We exchanged his life for a Momentous Sacrifice. (Please notice here the absence of the Biblical and the traditional myth of a 'ram' sent from the heavens. Also, note that slaughtering of a sheep or goat, by no means, can be considered a Momentous Sacrifice. (14:37, 37:102).

37:108 And We left for him remembrance among the later generations.

37:109 Peace and salutation to Abraham!

37:110 Thus do We reward the benefactors of humanity.

37:111 He was one of Our truly believing servants.

37:112 Then We gave him the good news of Isaac - a Prophet, among men of quality.

37:113 And We gave lasting felicity to him and Isaac. But among their generations are the doers of good, and those who, by doing wrong to others, clearly wrong their own “Self”.

37:114 Yes indeed, We bestowed excellence upon Moses and Aaron.

37:115 And We saved them and their people from the awesome distress (of bondage).

37:116 And helped them so that they became the victors.

37:117 And We gave both of them the Scripture that helped to distinguish the right from wrong. (‘Kitabal Mustabeen’ = the Book that helped to distinguish = The Torah. ‘Kitabil Mubin’ = The Book that distinguishes = The Qur’an).

37:118 And showed both of them the Straight Path.

37:119 And We left for them remembrance among the later generations.

37:120 Peace and salutation to Moses and Aaron!

37:121 Verily! This is how We reward the benefic.

37:122 Indeed, both of them were Our truly believing servants.

37:123 And, behold, Elias (Elijah) was one of Our Messengers (6:85).

37:124 When he said to his people, “Will you not walk aright?

37:125 You call upon Ba’l, and disregard the Best of creators,

37:126 Allah! Your Lord, and Lord of your forefathers.”

[‘Ba’l’ is the common term used in the Qur’an for husband. During the times of Prophet Elijah the Tishbite (9th century B.C.), the Israelites had come to worship a god of masculinity, which was hand crafted to resemble the Lingum, the male organ, of the Hindu Mythology. King Ahab and his wife Jezebel had huge temples built for the worship of and sacrifices to Ba’l, and a dominant faction among the Israelites had disregarded the strict Monotheism of the Torah in favor of Ba’l.]

37:127 But they denied him. And they will certainly be called to account.

37:128 But the sincere servants of Allah.

37:129 And we left for him remembrance among the later generations.

37:130 Peace and salutation to Elias!

37:131 Verily, this is how we reward the benefactors of humanity.

37:132 Indeed, He was among our truly believing servants.

37:133 And, behold, Lot was indeed among the Messengers.

37:134 When We saved him and his household, everyone,

37:135 Except an old woman who was among those who stayed behind in belief.

37:136 And then We destroyed the rest.

37:137 And verily, you pass by their sites by day.

37:138 And by night. Will you not, then, use your sense to draw lessons?

37:139 And, behold, Jonah was indeed among the Messengers.

37:140 When he fled like a runaway slave onto a laden ship. ('Abaqa' = Fled like a runaway slave. He migrated before Allah's Command. 21:87).

37:141 He had cast an arrow and missed the mark. (Untimely action.)

[Here, most translations are influenced by Biblical and other accounts. It is stated that the boat was overloaded and in order to save it, one man had to be cast into the sea. When the lots were thrown, it was Jonah who lost. But neither the verse means that nor do Prophets throw lots since it is a form of gambling.]

37:142 Then the Fish grabbed him while he was blaming himself. (Again, usually a whale is mentioned here. But the whale is a mammal and not a fish, and the Qur'an which is never inaccurate, speaks of 'Al-Hut' = The Fish. 'Fa-altaqamahu' = Grabbed him in its teeth, not 'swallowed'. Another interesting fact is that the whale only feeds on the tiniest plant particles, the planktons. Hence, her throat has been designed so narrow that it can't swallow even a little cat. The fiction of Jonah staying 40 days in the belly of a whale is demolished right thus).

37:143 And had he not been a valiant swimmer,

37:144 (The fish would have eaten him up and) he would have remained in her belly disintegrated there and further until the Day of Rising.

37:145 (He freed himself and swam to safety.) Then We cast him on the shore, while he was exhausted. (68:49).

37:146 We caused him to rest under a well-grown fruitful tree.

37:147 And We sent him back to his people, a hundred thousand, even more.

37:148 And this time they believed in him and so We let them enjoy this life.

37:149 Now (O Prophet) ask them if your Lord has daughters whereas they have sons! (Do they wish to live with superstitions, such as that Jonah lived in the belly of a fish for forty days and then he got free only by reciting a verse, or that your Lord has offspring)?

37:150 Or is it that We have created angels female and they witnessed it?

37:151 Attention! It is out of their own invention that they say,

37:152 "That Allah has begotten." And, verily, they tell a lie too,

37:153 When they say, "He has chosen daughters over sons."

37:154 What is amiss with you? How do you judge?

37:155 Will you not then reflect?

37:156 Or have you a clear authoritative evidence?

37:157 Then bring your Divine Authority if you are truthful.

37:158 And they imagine relationship between the unseen forces and their Lord. But the unseen forces know their assignments and constantly remain in His servitude.

37:159 Glorified is Allah from what they attribute to Him.

37:160 But the sincere servants of Allah.

37:161 Verily, neither you nor what you worship,

37:162 Can tempt the sincere servants against Him.

37:163 Only the one who rushes to the Blazing Fire.

37:164 The sincere servants say, "Each one of us has an assignment.

37:165 And, behold, we are soldiers in ranks.

37:166 And, verily, we, yes we are they who strive to establish His Glory on earth. ('Sabh' = Swim with long and strong laps and strides. It is not the rolling of the rosary-beads or to hymn some words).

37:167 And indeed the disbelievers used to say,

37:168 "If only we had a reminder from the old generations, or a Scripture as they had,

37:169 We would certainly be sincere servants of Allah alone.”

37:170 And yet, now they are denying the Truth. In time, they will come to know what they denied.

37:171 Our Word has already gone forth to Our servants, the Messengers,

37:172 That verily, they – indeed they - would be helped.

37:173 And that Our soldiers – they indeed - would be the victors.

37:174 So (O Prophet) withdraw from the disbelievers for a while.

37:175 And see them for what they do, and soon they will see what they now don’t.

37:176 Do they really wish to hasten Our retribution?

37:177 But when it comes upon their front-yards, it will be a dreadful awakening for those who have been sufficiently warned.

37:178 Hence, turn aside from them for a while.

37:179 And see them for what they do, and soon they will see what they now don’t.

37:180 Glory to your Lord, the Lord of Majesty, Exalted above their contriving.

37:181 And Peace and salutation to all the Message-bearers!

37:182 And all Praise is due to Allah, the Sustainer of the Worlds! (And to that end strive the Soldiers in Ranks).

**Surah 38 – Saad – Full of Truth**

[Author's note] This is the 38th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 88 verses. This Surah recaps several concepts, but as usual, from diverse vantage points. Using TASREEF (looking at the Divine Truth in different perspectives), the central theme here is how false pride becomes a barrier between man and Reality.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

38:1 S. SAAD. As-Sadiq - Full of Truth, this Qur'an is a Profound Reminder. Embracing all that is worth taking to your hearts, it can give you eminence.

38:2 But nay, the deniers are lost in false pride and opposition for the sake of opposition. Hence, they split their own personalities forcing themselves into maintaining double standards in life. (‘Shiqaq’ = Opposition, schism, splitting, split-personality. Double standards; since denial of a reality does not make it disappear).

38:3 How many a generation have We (Our Law of Requital) wiped out before them, and they cried out when it was too late to escape.

38:4 Now these people wonder that a Warner has come to them from their own midst! And the disbelievers say, "This is a wizard, a liar.

38:5 Does he blend all the gods into One God? Behold, this is a thing mind-boggling!"

38:6 Their leaders go about saying, "Walk away and hold on to your gods! This, behold, is the only thing to do. And this (mind-boggling thing) seems to be designed with ulterior motives.

38:7 We have never heard of this in the latest religion. This (concept of One God) is nothing but a made-up tale! (Even the Christians subscribe to a Triune God).

38:8 What! Has the Reminder come down only to him among us?" Nay, in fact, it is My Own Reminder that they distrust (and not you O Prophet). Nay, they have not yet tasted My Requital.

38:9 Or with them are the treasures of your Lord's Grace? - The Almighty, the Grantor of Gifts.

38:10 Or is it that theirs is the Kingdom of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them? If so, let them ascend to Supremacy by all means.

38:11 But here it is! Defeated confederates are these, however closely they might band together.

38:12 And before them denied the Truth, the people of Noah, Aad and Pharaoh of the firm stakes. ('Zil-awtad' could indicate 'the lord of the Pyramids').

38:13 And Thamud, and the people of Lot, and the dwellers of the Wood-dales (of Midyan). And they were clans strongly banded.

38:14 All of them accused the Messengers of lying. Hence, My Law justly grasped them.

38:15 Now these people only wait a single Blast from which they recover not.

38:16 And they mock, "Our Lord! Bring for us our sentence before the Day of Account."

38:17 Bear with patience whatever they may say, and remember Our servant David, the man of strength and resources. He always turned unto Us.

38:18 Behold, We subdued for him the strong Mountain Tribes that strived along with him night and day.

38:19 And the nomad riders of the Ta'er Tribe were all obedient to him. (21:79, 27:16, 34:10).

38:20 We strengthened his kingdom and gave him wisdom and good judgment. And We endowed him with the ability to make just decisions, and speak eloquently. (17:39, 43:63).

38:21 Have you heard of the story of the two disputing men when they climbed the wall into his private chamber?

38:22 When they breached his privacy, he was startled. They said, "Be not startled!" We both are disputing with each other as to who has done wrong to the other. Therefore, judge fairly between us, deviate not from equity and guide us to the even path."

38:23 One of them said, "Behold, this my brother has ninety nine farms, whereas I have only one. And yet he says, 'Give it over to me', and he dominates me in eloquence." ('Na'jah' = Ewe = Female sheep or deer = Agricultural farm).

38:24 David said, "He has certainly wronged you in demanding your farm in addition to his farms. Thus, behold, many close associates and business-partners treat each other unfairly - except those who believe in the Divine Values and care for the needs of others – but how few are they!" Afterwards, David wondered that We had tried him. (The feudal and economic system in his kingdom needed reform, as the poor were getting poorer). He implored his Lord to absolve his imperfections, and he immediately bowed himself and turned unto Him for guidance.

38:25 So We absolved his imperfections, and, behold - He remained ever close to Our Laws and his efforts reached a happy destination.

[Although copied here by many ancient and modern commentators of the Qur'an, the Biblical story of David taking Uriah's beautiful wife, Bath-Sheba finds no place in the Qur'an.]

38:26 (We said to him), "O David! We have made you a ruler in the earth, therefore, establish the System of justice and equity for people. Never let your judgment be swayed by personal whims causing you to deviate from the Path of Allah. For those who wander from the Path of Allah, is a strict retribution for having forgotten the Day of Account."

38:27 (No action goes uncompensated since) We have not created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them in vain - without meaning and purpose. Such is the assumption of those who disbelieve. (10:4, 11:7, 45:22, 53:31). Woe from the Fire to those who deny the Truth!

38:28 Shall We treat those who believe and augment the society as We treat those who spread corruption in the land? Or shall We treat the guardians of the Law as the Law-breakers?

38:29 This is a Scripture that We have revealed unto you (O Prophet), full of lasting Bliss that they may ponder its Messages and that people of understanding may take them to heart.

38:30 And unto David We granted Solomon, how excellent a servant! Behold, in every situation He would turn to Divine Laws.

38:31 In the evenings he used to examine his cavalry of nobly-bred, swift-footed horses.

38:32 He would say, "Verily, I love my fondness of all that is good because it reminds me of my Lord", as the horses raced away until hidden by the veil of distance.

38:33 "Bring them back unto me!" – and would lovingly stroke their legs and their necks.

[Solomon loved his cavalry since they helped him glorify his Lord's name. But, many ancient exponents of the Qur'an (and in their following some modern ones too) have, unfortunately, contrived most fantastic stories here. They assert, without any grounds, that one day Solomon got

engrossed in his horses and thus his evening prayer was delayed. Hence, he called back the twenty thousand of his horses and single-handedly slaughtered them with his sword!]

38:34 (That was Solomon and) We indeed tried him, and set upon his throne a mere body, and thereupon he turned to Us. (His son, the crown prince Rehoboam was just a hopeless presence 34:14. Until that point in history, the Kingdom of Israel was inherited among the generations of Prophet Jacob).

38:35 Solomon prayed, "O My Lord! Absolve my imperfections and bestow upon me the gift of a kingdom that may not suit anyone after me. Verily, You are the Giver of Gifts." (He did not wish to leave his great kingdom in incompetent hands and in all probability was thinking of merit in preference over lineage).

38:36 So We gave him the science of making the wind serve him and it carried his ships wherever he intended (34:12).

38:37 And made subservient to him the wild unruly men – every kind of builder and diver. (21:82, 34:13).

38:38 And others linked together in chains of discipline.

38:39 We told him, "All this is Our Gift for you. Give freely or withhold, in matters of the State, according to your best judgment. It is given to you beyond count."

38:40 And, behold - He remained ever close to Our Laws and his efforts always reached a happy destination.

38:41 And remember Our servant Job, when he called upon his Lord, "Behold, the serpent has bitten me and I am in distress and suffering." ('Satan has touched me', as a metonym = Serpent has bitten me. He was left alone from his caravan and family, ran out of the essential supplies, and now this happened 4:163, 6:84, 21:83-84).

38:42 (We told him), "Strike the ground with your foot (move a little bit). And here is cool water to wash with and a refreshing drink."

38:43 And We gave him back his family and followers and, in time, doubled their numbers as a Grace from Us. And herein is a reminder for people of understanding (on the virtue of patience).

[Erroneous interpretations at this point bring up a story that his one dozen children had died and two dozens 'new' children were given to him in exchange. Of course that many labor pains for his wife! Ah, the poor women!]

38:44 (And finally We told him,) "Now gather your strength and travel the land and break not your pledge." Behold, We found him steadfast. How excellent a servant! In every situation he turned to Our Commands.

[Hold the grass in your hand and strike with it = Collect your senses and travel on your Mission. Under the erroneous Biblical influence some 'experts' have interpreted this verse to mean that Prophet Job is being commanded to strike his wife with one hundred stripes or a broomstick with a

hundred twigs, or a band carrying a hundred blades of grass. Well, she had asked her husband to curse God for his afflictions!]

38:45 And also remember Our servants, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, men of strength and vision.

38:46 Verily, We endowed them with sincerity of purpose and with exceptional foresight. Hence, in all their efforts they never lost sight of the desired destination.

38:47 Behold, according to Our Standards, they were of the elect, excellent, fulfilling the mental, moral and physical needs of humanity.

38:48 Also mention Ishmael, Al-Yasa' (Elisha), and Zal-Kifl (Ezekiel). For, all of them were men of quality, fulfilling the mental, moral and physical needs of humanity. ('Akhiar' includes all this and more).

38:49 Let this be a Reminder – for, verily, there is a most beautiful destination for those who journey through life honorably.

38:50 Gardens of Eden, the perpetual Bliss, with gates wide-open for them.

38:51 Relaxing therein, they will be hosted with all kinds of food and drink.

38:52 And with them are well-matched companions of modest gaze.

38:53 This is what you are promised for the Day of Account.

38:54 This, verily, is Our Giving with no end to it.

38:55 Yes, this is so. But, for those who kept trespassing the Moral Values, is a destination with no good in it.

38:56 Hell that is! Wherein they burn – the worst bed to lie on!

38:57 This, then, - so let them taste it - the drink of burning distress and ice-cold wind. (Distress they caused others and insensitivity they showed toward oppression and injustice 78:25).

38:58 And other penalties in pairs (heat-cold, glare-darkness, noise-isolation, anxiety-depression, desire-hopelessness, etc.)

38:59 It will be said to the ringleaders, "Here is your group going with you headlong. There is no welcome for them, for only the Fire is here to embrace them."

38:60 The followers will say to the leaders, "Nay, but you! There is no welcome for you either! It is you who sent this forth for us! What a station of plight!" (14:21, 33:67, 34:32, 37:29, 40:47).

38:61 Then the followers will say, "Our Lord! Whoever has sent this forth for us, oh, double for him the suffering in Fire."

38:62 Then they will exclaim to one another, “What is amiss with us? We do not see people whom we counted among evil!

38:63 Whom we used to ridicule. (Are they not here) or is it that our eyes are missing them?”

38:64 Such, behold, will in truth be the argumentation of people of the Fire!

38:65 Say, “I am only a Warner, and there is no god but Allah, the One, the Irresistible.

38:66 Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them – Exalted in Might, Ever-Forgiving.”

38:67 Say, “That is a Tremendous News.

38:68 From which you turn away!

38:69 Say! “I had no knowledge of the top leaders of the past, and of their disputations.

38:70 It is revealed unto me only that I am a plain Warner. (To give warning plainly and publicly).

38:71 (The disputations began ever since mankind came into being.) When your Lord said to the angels, “Behold, I am about to create a human being out of clay. (Angels = Laws in the Universe 15:26-41).

38:72 And when I have designed him, and breathed into him from My Energy (from the Attribute of Free Will) then be submissive to him.”

38:73 Thereupon the angels agreed to be submissive before him, all of them together. ('Sajdah' = Literally, prostration, is due to Allah alone, hence, the allegorical meaning here).

38:74 Except Iblis - he acted arrogantly and denied the Command. (Iblis = Satan = selfish desire of the humans 2:34).

38:75 Said He, “O Iblis! What has kept you from being submissive to that which I have created with My Hands? Are you too proud or are you of the rebellious?”

38:76 Iblis replied, “I am better than he. You created me of fire while you created him of clay.” (Emotions are fiery in relation to the cool 'clay' of higher controls).

38:77 Said He, “Go forth from here, for, behold, you are condemned.

38:78 And My rejection is on you until the Day of Judgment.”

38:79 Iblis said, “Then, My Lord! Give me respite till the Day when they are raised.”

38:80 Answered He, “Verily so, you shall be among those who are given respite. (15:36-38).

38:81 Until the Day of Appointed Time.”

38:82 Iblis said, “I swear by Your Honor, I will certainly lead them all astray.

38:83 But such of them as are Your sincere servants.”

38:84 Said He, “The Truth is this - and this Truth do I state:

38:85 That certainly I will fill Hell with you and with such of them as follow you, together.”

38:86 (O Messenger) say to them, “I ask of you no reward for this Message, nor am I a pretender.

38:87 This (Qur’an), behold, is no less than a Reminder to the Worlds.

38:88 And you will most certainly know the Truth of it all after a lapse of time.”

**Surah 39 –Az-Zumar – The Communities**

[Author's note] This is the 39th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 75 verses. Besides other concepts, this Surah highlights collectivity. It indicates that people will enter their worldly or Afterlife Paradise or Hellfire in groups. This confirms the sociological observation that societies are made for individuals. Individuals are not made for societies. It also confirms that a benevolent social order facilitates the development of the “Self” toward self-actualization.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

39:1 The Revelation of this Book issues from Allah, the Almighty, the Wise.

39:2 Behold, it is We Who have revealed this Book to you (O Prophet) setting forth the Truth. Therefore, serve Allah sincere in your Faith in Him alone.

39:3 Know and make it known that the Pristine Religion is for Allah and from Him alone. And yet, they who take patrons besides Him say, “We worship them for no other reason than they bring us nearer to Allah.” (5:35, 10:18, 17:57). Behold, Allah judges them (right in this Revelation) concerning that wherein they differ. Verily, Allah does not intervene to guide anyone who is a liar unto himself, thankless to his own detriment.

39:4 And if Allah had willed to take unto Himself a son, He could have chosen anyone that He wanted out of what He has created. Infinite is He in His Glory! He is Allah, the One, the Overpowering. (Utterly remote from all imperfection, Allah is in no need or desire of having an offspring).

39:5 He it is Who has created the heavens and the earth to fulfill a definite Purpose. He rolls the night over the day, and rolls the day over the night. And He has subjected the sun and the moon, each running along its course for a term appointed. Is not He the Almighty, the Ever-Absolver of Imperfections?

39:6 He has created you all out of one living entity (from a single life cell) - and fashioned similarly its mate, male and female. (6:99). And He has bestowed upon you cattle of eight kinds in pairs.

(Sheep, goat, camel, cow - male and female, the common permissible livestock 6:144-146.) He creates you in the bellies of your mothers, creation after creation, in threefold depths of darkness (the abdominal wall, the uterine wall and the embryonic sac). Such is Allah, your Lord! Unto Him belongs the Kingdom. There is no god but He. How, then, can you sway like errant winds!

[‘Nafs’ = Self, Mind, Psyche, Soul, Human being, Living entity, Person, Life-cell, Humankind, Essence of life, Personality, Mental status, Ego, I, Me, I-am-ness, Personal identity, Animate object. ‘Minha zawjaha’ = mate out of its own kind = mate, male and female, similar in essence]

39:7 If you are ungrateful, behold, Allah is in no need of you. He does not approve of ingratitude in His servants. And if you are grateful, He approves it for you. And no laden one will bear the burden of another. Ultimately, unto your Lord is your return. And, then He will make you understand everything you were doing in life. Verily, He is Knower of what is in the hearts.

39:8 Now, when affliction befalls man, he calls upon his Lord turning unto Him. But as soon as He bestows upon him Bliss, he forgets Him Whom he called before, and he claims that there are other powers that can rival Allah – thus misleading others from His Path. (Such as he was saved by so and so of the saints, or magic, amulet etc.) Say, “Enjoy your disbelief for a little while. Behold, you are among the companions of the Fire.”

39:9 Is it not better to be one of those who are humble, adoring Him - even in the hours of the night, and standing, keeping in mind the life to come and hoping for his Lord’s grace? Say, “Are those who know (that that the ‘Self’ can evolve) equal to those who know not?” But only those who build their insight will take this to heart.

39:10 Convey to them on My behalf, “O You servants of Mine who have attained belief! Be mindful of your Lord. Good is the reward for those who do good in this world, and spacious is Allah’s earth. Verily, the steadfast will be given their reward in full, beyond account.”

39:11 Say, “Behold, I am commanded to serve Allah sincerely for the establishment of His System.

39:12 And I have been commanded to be the foremost among those who surrender to Him.”

39:13 Say, “Behold, if I disobey my Lord, I fear the doom of a Tremendous Day.”

39:14 Say, “I serve Allah sincerely to establish His System.

39:15 You may worship whatever you wish besides Him.” Say, “The real losers are those who lose their “Selves” and their families on the Day of Resurrection. Ah, that is without doubt the obvious loss.” ('Mubin' = Obvious without any doubt).

39:16 They will have fire and ashes above them, and beneath them a dais of hot ashes. In this way does Allah alert His servants: O My servants! Be mindful of My Laws.

39:17 As for those who shun the non-divine ‘authorities’ refraining from idol-worship in all forms, and turn to Allah alone, there are glad tidings. Give, then, this good news to My true servants.

39:18 Who listen to what is said and follow what is best. And they truly listen to the Word and see what is best applicable in a given situation. Such are those whom Allah guides, and they are the ones who grow in understanding.

39:19 On the other hand, he who has inevitably deserved suffering (for his persistence in following the non-divine 'authorities') - can you save someone who is already consumed in the Fire?

39:20 But those who are mindful of their Lord, for them are lofty and honorable mansions built for them with rivers flowing beneath. This is Allah's Promise. Never does Allah fail His Promise.

39:21 Have you not realized that it is Allah Who sends down water from the Height, and then leads it through the earth to form wells and come forth as springs? And then He brings forth a variety of colorful vegetation. Then you see the crops ripen turning golden yellow, and in the end He makes them crumble away (with grain aside). Verily, therein is a reminder to those who wish to develop their insight.

39:22 If Allah renders one's chest open to Islam he will be following a Light from his Sustainer. Hence, those whose hearts are hardened against Allah's Reminder (in the Book of Nature) only harm themselves. They are most obviously lost in error.

39:23 Allah has now revealed the best HADITH, a Book fully consistent within itself. It marks out both ways (to success and failure) repeating its Messages in diverse forms. Herewith shiver the skins of those who have some idea of the Glory of their Lord, and then, their skins and their hearts soften at Allah's Reminder. This is the Guidance of Allah, and with it He guides him who seeks guidance. Whereas he who follows a path that Allah has declared to be wrong, goes astray and he cannot find a guide. (4:88, 15:87).

39:24 Oh, he who defends himself against the suffering on the Resurrection Day only with his face! And it will be said to the violators of Divine Values, "Taste now what you had sown!"

39:25 Those who lived before their times, also denied the Truth. So the punishment befell them from directions they could have not imagined.

39:26 Thus Allah made them lose dignity and honor in the world. Yet, much greater will be the suffering in the life to come. They could have understood, had they made good use of what they knew.

39:27 And, indeed, We have explained this Qur'an to mankind with all kinds of requisite examples so that they might reflect and understand.

39:28 This Qur'an in Arabic is a Monograph in plain language free of all deviousness so that they might walk aright. ((7:158, 12:3, 13:37, 14:4, 25:1, 39:28, 41:3, 42:7).

39:29 Allah gives you another example: There is a man who deals with several disputing supervisors, compared to a man who deals with only one consistent supervisor. Are these two equal as regards their condition? All Praise is due to Allah (the One Master of all mankind!) Nay, but most of them know not (the Bliss of strict Monotheism 12:39).

39:30 Behold (O Prophet) you will die, and verily, they will die. (What counts is how people journey through life).

39:31 And, then, behold, on the Resurrection Day all of you shall present your disputes before your Lord for settlement.

39:32 (Here is the forewarning.) Who does a greater wrong than the one who tells a lie against Allah and the one who denies the Truth when it reaches him? Is not Hell the proper home of those who adamantly deny the Truth and choose to live in darkness? ('Kufr' = Denying the Truth, choosing to live in the darkness of ignorance, journey through life without Divine Guidance, being ungrateful for the Light).

39:33 And, the one who brings the Truth and the one who affirms it - they, indeed they, are the upright. (Note that the statements in this verse and the preceding one allude to the Messenger and the recipients of the Message).

39:34 With their Lord, they have all that they could ever desire. Such is the reward of the doers of good to others.

39:35 Allah will blot out the imprints of their faults and give them a reward par excellence, more than befitting for the best of their deeds.

39:36 Is not Allah Sufficient for His servant? And yet, they try to intimidate you with others besides Him. He whom violation of Allah's Law of guidance sends astray, for him there is no guide. (He who follows a path that Allah has declared to be wrong, goes astray and he cannot find a guide. (39:23).

39:37 And he who attains guidance according to Allah's Law of guidance, for him there can be no misleader. Is not Allah All Mighty, the Lord of Requital?

39:38 And thus it is - If you ask them, "Who is it that has created the heavens and the earth?" - They will answer, "Allah". (29:61). Say, "Have you, then, ever reflected on what you worship besides him? Can they remove harm from me against the Laws of Allah? Can they withhold His Grace if He wills Grace for me?" Say, "Allah is Sufficient for me! On Him rely the reliant."

39:39 Say, "O My people! Do all that may be in your power. For, behold, I am a laborer (in the Cause of Allah). In time you will come to know what you now don't.

39:40 As to who it is whom covers the torment of humiliation in this world and the Doom ever-Lasting." (6:136, 11: 93-121, 20:135, 39:39).

39:41 Behold, (O Prophet) We have revealed unto you this Book expounding the Truth for all mankind. Then whoever chooses to see the roadway is guided for his own good. And whoever chooses to be lost, he strays only to his own detriment. Neither are you a custodian over them, nor do you have power to determine their fate. (Wakeel = Advocate, guardian, warder, warden, defender, watcher, responsible, accountable).

39:42 (Only the living of the mind and heart can make choices in this world.) It is Allah Who takes their 'Conscious' upon death, and of the living during their sleep. He withholds it for those upon whom He has passed the decree of death, and restores the others until an appointed time. Herein, behold, are Signs for people who think. (39:6).

39:43 What! Do they contrive mediators side by side with Allah? Say, “Why - even though they have power over nothing and have no intelligence?"

39:44 Say, "All intercession belongs to Allah alone! Unto Him belongs the Kingdom of the Highs and their Lows, and unto Him you shall be returned.”

(Only He can mediate on your behalf - between His Law of Requital and your faults. It is His Law that He shall blot out the imprints of your faults and absolve your imperfections by way of your good deeds that make you worthy of His Grace 3:195, 29:7, 39:35).

39:45 And yet, when Allah alone is mentioned, the hearts of those who believe not in the life to come, shrink with aversion. But, when others (such as their ‘holy men’) are mentioned besides Him, behold, they rejoice. (Belief in the Hereafter essentially involves belief in the unwavering Law of Recompense where all actions have their repercussions).

39:46 Say, "O Allah! Originator of the heavens and the earth, Knower of the Invisible and the Visible! It is You Who will judge between Your servants wherein they differed."

39:47 If the violators of human rights owned everything on the earth, and twice as much, they would readily offer it as ransom from the awful retribution of the Resurrection Day. And there will appear unto them, from Allah’ Law of Requital what they had never imagined. (They will realize that Paradise and Hellfire are but natural consequences of how the human beings use their capabilities).

39:48 Here comes a hint - the very deeds they committed to cause imbalance in the lives of others, will appear before them. And the very things that they used to ridicule will come back to haunt and surround them. (79:36).

39:49 But now this is so – when adversity touches the human, he calls upon Us. But as soon as We grant him Bliss from Us, he says, "I have been given this by way of skillful knowledge." Nay, this affords them a test of their character. But most of them know not that they do not know enough. (‘La Ya’lamun’ pertaining to knowledge, in my opinion, carries a double connotation here as rendered. And, however intelligent and skillful an individual may be, Divine Laws and the society work in concert toward his success).

39:50 The same was said by those who passed before them, but their earnings failed to make them truly rich! (28:78).

39:51 They destabilized the lives of others, and their very deeds fell back upon themselves. And the same will happen to the oppressors always - their deeds falling back upon themselves, and they will never be able to evade the Law of Requital.

[‘Sayyeh’ = Causing imbalance in the lives of others. Unfortunately, terms such as ‘Sayyeh’, ‘Zanb’, ‘Ithm’ all are frequently translated as the vague term ‘Sin’.

‘Zanb’ = Tail = Trailing behind like the tail of an animal trails behind its body. ‘Ithm’ = Any action that depletes individual or communal energy.

Likewise ‘Zulm’ is almost always rendered as wrongdoing or transgression, while it denotes displacing something from its rightful place. Hence, 'Zulm' will carry a specific meaning according to the context.

And, the terms such as ‘Salehat’, ‘Birr’, ‘Khair’, ‘Hasanah’, ‘Taqwa' are made to lose their powerful specific impact in the form of the vague term ‘Righteousness’.

‘Salehat’ = Actions that augment the capabilities of a person or the society. ‘Birr’ = Works that lead to exponential growth of the ‘Self’. ‘Khair’ = A deed or act that endows a person and others with true inner happiness. ‘Taqwa’ = Journeying on the highway of life in a secure, honorable manner]

39:52 Do they not know that Allah increases and decreases provision according to His Laws? Herein are Messages for nations who believe in the Divine Laws.

39:53 (O Prophet) convey on My behalf, "O You servants of Mine who have so far wasted their personal capabilities! Despair not the rejuvenating Attribute of Allah – His Grace! Behold, Allah absolves your imperfections and protects you from the detriment of all that caused you to trail behind in humanity. Verily, He, indeed He, is the Forgiving, the Merciful."

39:54 Hence, turn to your Lord and surrender to Him before the period of respite is over and the doom befalls you. Then you will not be helped.

39:55 And follow the best teaching (the Qur’an) that has been revealed for you by your Lord before the doom comes upon you suddenly without your perceiving of the why, how and whence of it. (39:18). (I have rendered: revealed 'for' you instead of 'to' you since the addressee in the verse is plural).

39:56 Lest any person should say, "Ah! My grief that I was unmindful of Allah, and indeed was I among the mockers!"

39:57 Or lest he should say, "Had Allah guided me, I too would have been of those who walked aright!"

39:58 Or lest he should say, when he sees the Requital, "I wish I had a second chance so that I could be among those who do good to others!"

39:59 Nay! My Messages did come to you, but you denied them in false pride and so were you of the rejecters of the Truth.

39:60 Saddened in gloom you will see, on the Resurrection Day, the faces of those who lied concerning Allah. Is not Hell the proper home for those given to false pride?

39:61 But Allah will safeguard those who walked aright, for their successful journey through life. No harm will touch them, nor will they grieve.

39:62 Allah is the Supreme Creator of all things, and He alone determines through His Laws the destiny of all things.

39:63 His are the keys of the heavens and the earth. (He has appointed Laws through which the heavens and the earth can be explored). Those who shun His Signs in the Universe – it is they, they, who are the real losers.

39:64 Say, “Is it something other than Allah that you want me to serve, worship and obey, O You the ignorant ones?”

39:65 It has already been revealed for you as well as for those before you, “If you fell for idolatry in any form, all your works will be nullified, and indeed you will be among the losers.”

39:66 Nay, but you shall serve Allah alone and be among those who show gratitude for His Guidance and Bounties by sharing them with others. (‘Shukr’ = Gratitude = Keeping Allah’s bounties open for the benefit of others thus obtaining best possible and collective results. It does not end with just verbal ‘Thank God!’)

39:67 And they (mankind) do not esteem Allah as He has the right to be esteemed. When the mankind stands at their feet, His Law will be held Supreme in the human society as it is in the Universe. (As an allegory) on the Resurrection Day the entire earth will be as a mere handful to Him, and the heavens will be rolled up in His Right Hand. Glorious is He, Sublimely Exalted Above all that they associate with Him. (6:92, 21:20-23, 22:75, 43:84).

[Belief in the Resurrection is an integral part of Islam. However, as the Qur’an repeatedly makes clear, Allah’s Law of Requital, individual moral success and failure, accountability, His Judgment, the decline and rise of nations, the hell and paradise begin and can be witnessed at least partially right here in this world. Hence, like many other places in the Book verses 39:67-75 apply to both lives especially when we consider 39:69 and 39:74 describing earth shining with its Lord’s Light and the inheritance of the earth by those who believe in His Laws]

39:68 When the Trumpet will be sounded the high leaders and the masses will be stunned except those who are already walking the Divine Path. And then it will sound again, and behold, they will stand in awe seeing the Truth. (27:87, 83:6).

39:69 And the earth will shine bright with the Light of its Lord. And all matters will be seen in the Light of the Book that clearly expounds all things. And the roadmap that the Messengers had come to point out, and the believers kept witnessing to their Truth, will help Justice prevail. And no one shall be wronged.

39:70 For, every human being will be repaid in full for whatever he has been doing. (The Justice that is so well expounded in the Qur’an.) And He is the best Knower of whatever they do.

39:71 The rejecters of the Truth will be led to hell as communities till they reach it and its gates are opened. The keepers of hell will ask them, “Did not come to you Messengers from among yourselves conveying to you the Messages of your Lord and warning you of the meeting of this your Day?” They will say, “Yes, indeed!” But at that time the sentence of punishment would have already been announced against the deniers of the Truth.

39:72 It will be said to them, “Enter you the gates of hell to abide therein." The time is now to realize how miserable is the destination of those given to false pride.

39:73 And those who are mindful of their Lord will be escorted into the Garden as communities till they reach it and its gates are opened. The keepers of the Garden will say to them, ”Peace be upon you! You have done well! Enter, then, herein to abide.”

39:74 And they will say, “All Praise is due to Allah Who has fulfilled His Promise unto us, and made us inherit the land. We can live in beautiful dwellings of our choice in this Garden.” So Bounteous is the reward of the sincere workers! (24:55, 33:27).

39:75 And you will see the angels surrounding the Throne of the Almighty’s Supreme Control extolling their Lord’s Glory and Praise. And all will be judged aright. And they will say in concert, “All Praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.” (Allah’s physical Laws in the Universe will help the guided mankind establish the Divine Rule on earth, as it is in the Cosmos. And the Divine System in the lives of mankind will make them truly see that all Praise indeed belongs to the Giver of such Benevolent Guidance).

## Surah 40 – Al-Mu’min – The Believer

[Author's note] This is the 40th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 85 verses. This Surah highlights the speech of a believer in the court of Pharaoh. As per style of the Qur'an, it takes us along the pleasant journey to Allah's Signs in the Book of Nature, in the history of nations, and within ourselves.

Some 'authorities' call this Surah as 'Al-Ghafir', but THE QUR’AN AS IT EXPLAINS ITSELF is committed to the Original Unity and not given to even a speck of dissension.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

40:1 H.M. Hameed Owner of all praise, Majeed Exalted in Glory, states that:

40:2 The Revelation of this Book is from Allah, the Almighty, the Knower.

40:3 Absolver of actions that cause you to trail behind in humanity, Acceptor of repentance, Stern in grasping, Infinite in Authority - there is no god but He. Unto Him is the destination of all journeying.

40:4 None but those who are determined to deny the Truth will dispute the Messages of Allah. Let not their thump and thud in the towns impress you.

40:5 Before their times, the people of Noah and generations after them too banded together in denying the Message. And every nation endeavored to seize its Messenger, and disputed with him with falsehood in order to refute the Truth. But it was I Who seized them, and, behold, how awesome was My grasping!

40:6 Thus was fulfilled the Word of your Lord concerning the rejecters, and so they are companions of the Fire.

40:7 Those who understand the Supremacy of their Lord, and even those who come close to it, extol His Glory and praise, and strive to manifest it in the human lives. They have conviction in Him and work to absolve mutual imperfections of one another of the believers in the System, saying, “Our Lord! You embrace all things within your Knowledge and Grace - Absolve then, the imperfections of those who turn to and walk on Your Way, and guard them against the blazing Fire.”

40:8 “And O Our Lord! Admit them into the Gardens of Eden that you have promised them, along with their parents and their spouses and their descendants as walk aright. Verily, You, only You, are the Almighty, the Wise.”

40:9 “And guard them against the imprints of their faults, for, anyone whom You guard from the imprints of their faults on that Day, him You have verily taken into Grace. And that, that is the Supreme Triumph.”

40:10 But, behold, as for those who adamantly deny the Truth, they will be so addressed, "Indeed, greater than your disapproval of yourselves this Day was Allah’s disapproval when you were invited to the Faith but you went on denying and screened yourselves off from the Light.” (Kufr = Denying the Truth = Ingratitude for guidance = Choosing to live in darkness).

40:11 They will say, "Our Lord, twice You have made us die, just as twice You have made us live. But now we confess that we did trail behind in making progress. Is there any way out of this (second death)?”

[First death: In the worldly life. Second death: Lack of further progress in the Hereafter, which is mere survival in Hell. Most commentators lean toward ascribing the first death to the non-existence of human beings before being born into this world. But it is difficult to conceive of death before a person was even born. 2:28, 14:17, 20:74, 35:36, 44:56, 87:12-13. The Qur’an vividly portrays life as a journey with the propensity of further evolution and progress even in the Hereafter]

40:12 It will be said to them, "This is your plight because when Allah alone was invoked you denied the Message, and when others (such as your ‘holy’ men) were included besides Him, you believed. But the Command belongs only to Allah, the Sublime, the Majestic.” (39:45).

40:13 He it is Who shows you His Signs in the Universe and sends down sustenance for you from the sky. Yet none learns a lesson except those who turn to seek the Truth.

40:14 Call you, then, upon Allah, sincere in your Faith in Him alone, however hateful this may be to those who deny the Truth (by invoking their ‘holy' men besides Him).

40:15 Exalted is He in His Attributes, and the Exalter of ranks He is, the Lord of the Throne, Master of the Supreme Control. By His Command has He sent the Revelation to whomever He chooses from among His servants, in order that He may warn mankind of the Day of Meeting. (The Day when all of them meet together and meet their Lord.)

['Rafiuddarajat' and 'Zul'arsh' carry double connotation in my opinion as rendered]

40:16 On the Day when they shall come forth, with nothing of them hidden from Allah. Well, to Whom belongs the Kingdom (as dawned upon you) this Day? To Allah, the One, the Irresistibly Dominating!

40:17 Today will every ‘Self’ be rewarded for whatever it has earned – no wrong Today! Verily, Swift is Allah in settling accounts.

40:18 Hence, warn them of the Day which draws near - when the hearts will throb muffling the voices in the sound boxes. No bosom friend will be there for the violators of human rights, nor shall any mediator be granted audience.

40:19 He knows the treachery of the eyes, and all that the hearts would conceal. (Treachery of the eyes = See but not observe. Reporting hearsay as eyewitness. Failing to lower the gaze. Not using senses to full potential. Failing to learn from daily observation. Not using vision to develop the Vision.)

40:20 Allah alone secures all things as the hinges secure the controlled freedom of a swinging door. Whereas those whom they call instead of Him, can secure nothing, for, behold, Allah! He alone is the Hearer, the Seer. (The common rendering here, that Allah judges while others cannot, is linguistically deficient and fails to stand up to reason).

40:21 Have they, then, never traveled in the land and seen the outcome of those who lived before their times? They were mightier than these, and in the impact they left on earth as evident from their ruins. But Allah took them to task for their trailing behind in humanity. And then they had no defender against the Laws of Allah. (30:9).

40:22 This - because their Messengers had come to them with all evidence of the Truth, and yet they rejected it. So Allah seized them. Behold, verily, He is Strong, Strict in grasping.

40:23 Thus indeed, We sent Moses with Our Messages and a clear authority.

40:24 To Pharaoh, Haman and Qarun (Korah), (the archetypes of tyranny, priesthood, and wealth respectively), but they said, “A spellbinder is he, a liar.” (28:6, 29:39).

40:25 Now when he brought them the Truth from Our Presence, they said, "Kill the sons of those who have come to believe with him and spare their women!" But the scheme of the rejecters came to naught. (2:49, 7:127).

40:26 Pharaoh said, "Leave it up to me to kill Moses and let him call upon his Lord. Behold, I am afraid he will change your religion and your life-style and cause uprising in the land."

40:27 Moses replied, "Behold, I have found refuge with my Lord and the Lord of you all from every arrogant one who believes not in a Day of Account (and, hence, in the Law of Requital)."

40:28 Now a believing man among Pharaoh's folk who had thus far concealed his Faith, exclaimed, "Would you kill a man because he says, ‘My Lord is Allah’, and brought you all evidence of the Truth from your Lord? If he is a liar, then his lie will fall back upon him (he will soon be exposed). But if he is a man of truth, then some of the punishment he warns you against, will certainly befall you. Verily, Allah does not guide to success any who wastes his ‘Self’ being a persistent liar.

40:29 O My people! Yours is the kingdom today, and most eminent are you in the earth. But who will help us against Allah’s strike, once it hits us?" Pharaoh said, "I want you to see what I see. And I would never show you but the right way."

40:30 Thereupon the believer said, "O My people! Behold, I fear for you the day of disaster that befell prior peoples who banded together (against the Truth).

40:31 The condition of Noah's people, and Aad and Thamud, and those who came after them. Allah never intends injustice for His servants.

40:32 O My people! Behold, I fear for you a Day when you will cry unto one another in distress.

40:33 A Day when you will turn to flee, having no defender against Allah’s Law. And whoever forsakes Allah’s Law of guidance, for him there is no guide. (4:88).

40:34 And it was to you that Joseph had come with all evidence of the Truth. But, you incessantly cast suspicion on what he had brought. And when he died, you said, 'Never will Allah send a Messenger after him (among you, the Israelites). Thus Allah’s Law lets go astray a waster of ‘Self’ - doubter, given to suspicion.

40:35 Such who keep opposing Allah’s Messages without any authority that ever came unto them (40:56). Strongly disapproved is this attitude in the Court of Allah and in the sight of the believers. Thus Allah’s Law sets a seal on every arrogant megalomaniac heart.”

40:36 (Thus spoke the believer among Pharaoh’s folk.) And Pharaoh remarked, "O Haman! Build for me a lofty tower that I may have enough means.

40:37 The means of access to the Heavens, and look upon the God of Moses. Behold, though, I think him a liar." Thus, goodly seemed to Pharaoh the evil of his own deeds, and so was he barred from the Path. In the end all plotting of Pharaoh led him to nothing but ruin.

40:38 Still, the man who had believed, went on, "O My people! Follow me. I will show you the right way.

40:39 My people! The life of this world is but a brief enjoyment. Whereas, behold, the Hereafter, that is the Lasting Home.

40:40 There whoever has destabilized another person’s life, will be repaid the like of it. And whoever has helped others, whether male or female, while believing in the Divine Values, such will enter the Garden wherein they will be blessed with sustenance without measure.

40:41 O My people! What is my personal benefit that I call you to freedom from grief whereas you invite me to the Fire?

40:42 You call me to disbelieve in Allah and accept authorities besides Him, a concept that holds no ground before what I know. On the other hand, I invite you to the Almighty, the Consistent Absolver of human faults and imperfections.

40:43 No doubt you invite me to that, calling upon which, is an exercise in futility in this world and in the Hereafter. In fact unto Allah is our return and they who waste their human potential shall be companions of the Fire.

40:44 Sometime in the future you will remember what I am saying to you now. I commit my affair to Allah, for, verily, Allah is Seer of His servants."

40:45 And Allah protected him from their evil scheming while suffering was to surround Pharaoh's people.

40:46 The Fire which they had been warned, day-in and day-out and then faced it (as long as they lived in this world.) And on the Day when the Hour dawns, it will be said, "Cast Pharaoh's folk into the toughest penalty." (7:133, 28:42).

40:47 And behold! They will dispute with each other in the Fire. The commoners will say to the leaders, "Behold, we were following you. Can you, then, take away some of the Fire from us?" (14:21, 33:67, 34:32, 37:27-29, 38:60).

40:48 The leaders will respond, "Behold, we are all in it together. Verily, Allah has judged between His servants."

40:49 And those in the Fire will say to the keepers of Hell, "Ask your Lord that He lighten for us one day of this torment."

40:50 But (the keepers) will say, "Is it not that your Messengers came to you with all evidence of the Truth?" They will answer, "Yes, indeed." And the keepers will respond, "Pray, then! But the prayer of those without Faith is nothing but futile wandering."

40:51 Behold, We verily do help Our Messengers and those who truly attain belief, in this world and also on the Day when the witnesses shall stand up. (On the Resurrection Day the humans will have a newly awakened consciousness within themselves witnessing the Truth).

40:52 The Day their excuses will not avail the oppressors, and theirs will be a removal from Divine Grace, and for them is but the home of misery.

40:53 And indeed such was the history of Moses whom We gave the Guidance and thus made the Children of Israel inherit the Scripture.

40:54 As a guide and a reminder for people of understanding.

40:55 Hence, (O Prophet) remain patient in adversity – for, verily, Allah's Promise always comes True. And dispel and guard yourself against the slander and schemes of the alarmists intended to cause dissension. And extol the Glory and Praise of your Lord night and day, working hard to set up the Divine Order for everyone to behold that He is Praiseworthy. (47:19, 48:2 - 'Zanb' also means sticking a blame or slander behind one's back for character assassination).

40:56 They contest the Messages of Allah without possible authoritative evidence, since they have nothing but false pride in their hearts. By self-glorification none shall attain dignity. (7:146, 40:35). Dispel their designs by seeking refuge in Allah's Laws. Behold, He, only He, is the Hearer, the Seer.

40:57 Greater indeed than the creation of the humans is the creation of the heavens and the earth. But most people never know what it implies (That the entire Universe submits to the Divine Laws, hence, should the mankind 29:61).

40:58 But then, the blind of reason and the seer at heart are not equal. And neither are those who attain faith, and help others, equal to those who create imbalance in people's lives. How seldom do you use your mind!

40:59 Verily, the Hour is surely coming, of this there is no doubt. Yet most people do not believe. (That the Divine Revolution will come on this earth and then in the Cosmos 9:33).

40:60 Your Lord has said, "Call unto Me and I shall respond to you. (Whenever you need guidance, turn to My Laws in the Qur'an and you will find an answer). Verily, those who are too proud to serve Me, will enter Hell, disgraced."

40:61 Allah it is Who has made the night for you, so that you might rest therein, and the day to make you see. Behold, Allah is the Lord of Bounty for mankind, but most people are ungrateful (not making proper use His Bounties and keeping them confined to themselves).

40:62 Such is Allah, your Lord, the Creator of all things. There is no god but He. How can you, then, wander in the wilderness of thought! (29:61).

40:63 Thus it is - Wandering indeed are those who contend with the Messages of Allah.

40:64 Allah it is Who rendered the earth a dwelling place for you and the atmosphere a canopy (to protect you against extremes of heat and cold and against meteorites 21:32), and formed you – and formed you so well - and provided you with decent things of life. Such is Allah, your Lord. Most Exalted, then, is Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.

40:65 He is the Ever-Living. There is no god but He. Call, then, unto Him alone, sincere for the Faith. (Be sincere in establishing His System of Life letting everyone behold that) all Praise indeed belongs to Allah, Lord of the Worlds.

40:66 Say, "I am forbidden to obey whom you call upon instead of Allah, since all evidence of the Truth has come to me from my Lord and I am commanded to surrender to the Lord of the Worlds.

40:67 He it is Who created you from dust, then from the gametes, then from an embryo, and then He brings you forth as an infant. And then you attain full strength and afterward you grow old – though some of you die earlier. All this He ordains so that you reach a term appointed, and along the way, develop your insight. (22:5).

40:68 He it is Who grants life and causes death. The moment He decrees a thing, He says to it only "Be!" and it is.

40:69 Have you, then, seen those who contend against Allah's Revelations, and, hence, sway like errant winds? -

40:70 - Those who deny the Book and thus the Message with which We sent all Our Messengers. But, in time they will come to know (what it was that they had denied).

40:71 When they shall have shackles of their own making around their necks, and are dragged in chains of their restricted thinking.

40:72 Into the hot fluid (since they were floating from desire to desire), and, then, they become sparks of the Fire of their own making.

40:73 And now, they will be asked, "Where are those whom you made partners -

40:74 - Besides Allah?" They will groan, "They have left us groping in the dark. Nay, rather, we were calling upon what existed not." This is how Allah lets go astray those who choose to live in darkness by denying the Truth and thus remaining ungrateful to Guidance. ('Kafirin' = Deniers of the Truth = Those who choose to remain in darkness = Those who are ungrateful for the Divine Guidance).

40:75 This is because in your life on the earth you used to take delight in what was not True, and roamed about haughtily with your false doctrines.

40:76 Enter you the gates of Hell to abide therein. What a miserable abode for the arrogant!

40:77 Then, (O Prophet) remain patient, for, verily, Allah's Promise always comes True. Whether We let you witness some of what We promise them, or whether We cause you to die, still unto Us they will be brought back. (10:46, 23:95, 43:42).

40:78 Yes indeed, We sent Messengers before you. Some of them We have mentioned to you, and some of them We have not mentioned to you. And none of the Messengers was given the authority to bring a Message or a Sign but by Allah's leave. But when (the period of respite was over and) the Command of Allah came, the matter was decided in truth and justice. And there and then perished the upholders of falsehood.

40:79 (Those who ask for miracles, must know that Allah has placed Signs in the Universe, for example) Allah it is Who has made for you the quadrupeds, that you may ride some of them and from some you derive food.

40:80 And you find yet other benefits from them. And that through them you may fulfill your heart-felt needs (of travel, food and milk, labor and battle) - and that you may be carried on them (on the land) as upon the ship (in the sea).

40:81 And thus He shows you His Wonders! Then which of the Wonders of Allah will you deny?

40:82 Have they not, then, journeyed about the earth and seen what happened in the end to those who lived before them? They were more numerous than these, and greater in power than these are, and stronger in the impact they left upon earth. But all that they ever achieved availed them not, and it failed to make them truly rich.

40:83 For when their Messengers came to them with all evidence of the Truth, they took delight in the knowledge they possessed. And the very thing they used to mock came on to pay a visit to them. (They took pride in their knowledge and skill and ridiculed the warnings of the Messengers that wrong Systems crash down however smartly they might be run).

40:84 And then, as they saw Our Strike, they cried, "We believe in Allah, the One God only and reject all that we used to associate with Him." (We will dismiss false ‘authorities’ and submit to the Divine System of Life).

40:85 But their proclamation of Faith could not help them, once they saw Our Blow. This is the Law of Allah that has always applied to His servants. And so, there and then, lost were the rejecters of the changeless Divine Laws.

**Surah 41 – Fussilat – A Book Clearly Spelled Out**

[Author's note] This is the 41st Surah of the Qur’an. It has 54 verses narrating the impact of belief and disbelief in the individual and collective lives of the human beings. The Surah concludes with a powerful announcements that all people on the face of the earth will eventually recognize that this Qur’an is the Final Word of God and it solves all the problems that mankind does and ever will face.

Some historians have called this Surah, ‘Ha-Mim AS-Sajdah’. THE QUR’AN AS IT EXPLAINS ITSELF , once again, would stick to the original unanimity. Additionally, in this particular case, FUSSILAT is not only a simpler and highly expressive term, but further more avoids getting this Surah mixed up with Surah 32, As-Sajdah, in the reader’s mind.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

41:1 H.M. HA–MIM. Hameed: Owner of all Praise, Majeed: Sublimely Exalted states that:

41:2 This is a Revelation from the Beneficent, the Merciful.

41:3 A Book whose verses and Messages are clearly explained, a Monograph in Arabic, the eloquent language, for all people who would make use of what they learn. ((7:158, 12:3, 13:37, 14:4, 25:1, 39:28, 41:3, 42:7).

41:4 A herald of glad news as well as a warning. Yet, most of them turn away so that they hear not.

41:5 And so they say, "Our hearts are veiled from what you invite us to, and (consider) there is deafness in our ears, and that between us and you is a barrier. So, do as you will (mind your business), and, behold, we shall do as we have been doing.”

41:6 (O Prophet) say to them, "I am only a human being like you. It has been revealed to me that your God is One God. Therefore, march along the Straight Road to Him and seek the protection of His forgiveness. And (know that) there is nothing in store but loss for them who associate ‘partners’ with Him." (‘Wayl’ = Woe = Ultimate loss).

41:7 Those who (because of submitting to man-made systems) fail to set up the Just Economic Order of Zakat and thus practically deny (the accountability in) the life to come. (And the long-term prosperity and viability of their societies).

41:8 But, verily, those who accept the Divine Revelation and contribute toward enhancement of the society, shall have a reward unending.

41:9 Say, "What! Do you indeed deny Him Who has created the earth in two stages? (Firstly when it shot away like a fiery ball from the Cosmic matter and secondly, when it cooled off sufficiently to become habitable). And would you still ascribe rivals unto Him? He it is, the Sustainer of the Worlds." (36:40, 79:30)

41:10 And He it is Who placed therein firm mountains towering above it, and bestowed enduring Bliss upon it. And He measured therein its sustenance in Four Seasons, alike for all who (invariably) need it. (39:67, 56:63-73).

41:11 Likewise, He it is Who designed well the Sky when it was Smoke (Nebulae of gas). And He said to it and the earth, "Come both of you willingly or unwillingly." They said, "We do come, obedient." (‘Thumm’ = Afterward, then, so, likewise, similarly, in the like manner. The Cosmic bodies coming into their orbits willingly or unwillingly indicates their having been made subservient to the Divine Laws, without free will 3:82, 13:15).

41:12 And He it is Who ordained that they become seven Heavens in two stages and assigned to each heaven its function. And We decorated the sky of the world with shining lamps, and made them secure (that they clash not in their orbits 41:9). That is the Design of the Almighty, the Knower.

41:13 But if they turn away, then tell them, "I warn you of a thunder (of Requital) like the thunder of Aad and Thamud.”

41:14 Behold, the Messengers came unto them in their former and latter generations, saying, “Serve none but Allah!” They replied, "If our Lord had willed, He would have sent down angels. This is it, behold, we are disbelievers in what you (claim) are sent with."

41:15 Now as for Aad, they behaved proudly in the land doing things contrary to the Truth. And they used to say, "Who is mightier than us in power?" How - could they not realize that Allah, Who created them, is Mightier than they in power? But they went on denying Our Messages, knowingly. (‘Ja’hd’ = Rejecting the Truth knowingly 27:14).

41:16 And so We sent upon them a raging windstorm for days of misfortune, that We let them taste a punishment of humiliation in the life of this world. But the punishment of the Hereafter is far more humiliating and they will have none to help them.

41:17 And as for Thamud, We showed them the Way, but they preferred blindness over the light of Guidance. So the thunder of a degrading punishment seized them for what they used to earn.

41:18 And We preserved those who had believed and walked aright. (The believers heeded the forewarning of their Messenger and had followed him to safety).

41:19 Hence, the Day! When the enemies of Allah will be gathered to the Fire, led in ranks.

41:20 Till, when they reach it, their hearing and their sight and their skins will bear witness against them, about all they had been doing.

41:21 And they will ask their skins, "Why did you testify against us?" They will say, "Allah has given us the power to speak as He has given speech to all things. For, He created you for the first time and unto Him you are brought back. (17:13, 75:14).

41:22 And you did not hide yourselves that your hearing, or your sight or your skins would bear witness against you. Nay, but you thought that Allah never knew a great deal of what you were doing!

41:23 And that very assumption that you thought about your Lord has brought you to ruin, and so now you find yourselves among the losers."

41:24 And even if they bear with patience, the Fire will be their home. And if they ask to be allowed to make amends, their request will not be granted. (16:84).

41:25 (In the life of the world) We assigned them comrades who made pleasing to them their present and past actions. (The Divine Law so applied to them 43:36. "Birds of the same feather flock together.") - And so, the Word has come to pass for them as it did concerning the communities that lived before them, among the rural and the urban. Verily, they all are losers.

41:26 Now those who adamantly deny the Truth, say, "Listen not to this Qur'an, but drown it in uproar so that you might dominate."

41:27 But We shall certainly make these deniers taste an awful suffering, and verily, We shall requite them for the worst of their deeds.

41:28 That is the reward of Allah's enemies – the Fire. Therein will be their eternal home. A befitting reward, for they knowingly opposed Our Messages.

41:29 And the deniers will say, "Our Lord! Show us those, among the rural and the urban, who misled us. We will trample them underfoot so that they become the lowliest."

41:30 But, behold, as for those who say, "Our Lord is Allah," and then remain steadfastly upright – upon them descend angels, saying, "Fear not, and grieve not, but hear good news of the Paradise that you are promised. ('Angels descending and saying' = Allah's Laws supporting the steadfastly upright who submit to Allah alone. 3:124-125, 8:10-12, 33:43, 46:13).

41:31 We are close to you in the life of the world and in the Hereafter. In it (in your paradise on the earth and in the Hereafter) you shall have all that you may desire and in it you shall have all that you ever prayed for.

41:32 A gift of welcome from Him Who is all-Forgiving, most-Merciful."

41:33 And who is better in speech than him who invites people to Allah, tries to grow himself in goodness, fulfills the needs of others and declares, "Surely, I am one of those who surrender unto Him?"

41:34 Since good conduct and bad conduct cannot be alike, repel evil words and deeds in a way that is decent. And, behold, he, between whom and you there was enmity, may become as though he was your bosom friend!

41:35 Yet, none is granted this quality but those who exercise patience and restraint. And none is granted it except those who become worthy of great happiness and good fortune. This quality can make you outstandingly successful, winning. ('Zu-hazzin azim' = Extremely fortunate, includes the two meanings rendered here).

41:36 (This quality is difficult to attain because Satan, your impulsive emotions and rogue people, will try to instigate you.) Hence, if a prompting from Satan stirs you up into anger, seek refuge with Allah (recalling this admonition immediately). Behold, He is all Hearing, all Knowing.

41:37 (Divine Laws help you journey through life in great balance as you see in the Nature). Now among His Signs are the night and the day as well as the sun and the moon. Adore neither the sun nor the moon, but adore Allah Who created them, if it is Him you wish to serve.

41:38 But if they are too proud, those who are with your Lord, practically extol His Glory night and day, and tire not. (All things in the Universe are working toward the fulfillment of the Divine Plan).

41:39 And among His Signs is this: That you see the earth humble (to Command). And behold! When We send down water thereon, it thrills and vibrates with life! Behold, He Who revives it, verily is the Reviver of the dead. For, behold, He has Power over all things. (His Laws can revive the dead of heart and the lowly nations as well).

41:40 Behold, those who distort Our Messages are not hidden from Us. Hence, is he who is cast into the Fire better, or he who comes secure on the Resurrection Day? Do what you will; He is ever Seer of all that you do.

41:41 Think of those who fail to see the power in this Reminder when it comes to them! For, verily, it is a Tremendous Scripture.

41:42 No falsehood can ever approach it openly or in stealth - a Revelation from all Wise, Owner of Praise.

41:43 Nothing is being said to you (O Messenger) but what was said to all Messengers before you. Behold, your Lord is Owner of the protecting forgiveness, and Owner of awesome grasp. ('Ghafarah' = Helmet of armor = Protecting from hurt = Absolving imperfections).

41:44 Now if We had made it a Qur'an in a non-Arabic tongue they would surely have said, "Why is it that its verses have not been made clear? Why - a foreign tongue and an Arab?" Say, "For those who accept it, this is a Guidance and medicine for a wholesome life. But as for those who will not believe (Arabs or non-Arabs), in their ears is deafness, and so it remains obscure to them. They are like people who are called to from afar.

41:45 Yes, indeed, We had given Moses the Scripture too (in their language), and it was also disputed. And but for a Word from your Lord that has already gone forth, all disputes between them would have been judged. And, behold, they keep lingering in doubt amounting to suspicion concerning this Revelation as well! (The Word gone forth = The Law of free will 2:256, 11:118-119).

41:46 (The Revelation that shows mankind how to grow their ‘Self’.) Whoever does good to others does good to his own ‘Self’, and whoever causes imbalance in the lives of others, hurts his own ‘Self’. And your Lord is never unjust to His servants.

41:47 In Him alone is vested the knowledge of the Hour. (Actions reach their logical consequence in stages). And no fruit emerges from its sheath, and no female ever conceives, nor gives birth, but according to His Laws of Science. And so, on the Day He will call them, "Where are now those ‘partners’ of Mine?" They will say, "We confess to You, none of us sees them around here." ('Ilm = Knowledge = Skill = Science).

41:48 And thus, those whom they used to call upon before, will leave them groping in the dark. And they will realize there is no asylum for them.

41:49 Man tires not of looking for wealth and happiness, and if harm touches him, soon he is disheartened, despondent. (100:8, 102:1-2).

41:50 And when We let him taste Grace from Us after some hurt that has touched him, he says, "This is from, and for, me. I think not that the Time will ever rise (to go against me). And if I am indeed brought back before my Lord, then, behold, with Him is even better return for me.” (I shall be favored there as I am favored here). But We certainly will tell the ungrateful all that they did. And certainly We will make them taste heavy punishment. ('Ma Li' = For me, from me. ‘As-Sa’ah’ = The Hour = Resurrection = Revolution = Turn of fortunes = Time 18:36).

41:51 Also, when We bestow Bliss on man, he turns away, and withdraws aside, but when a hurt touches him, then he is full of prayers. (17:83).

41:52 Say, “Have you ever considered: If this Revelation is truly from Allah and you deny it, then who can be more astray than he who is in a deep split of his personality?” (This Book from your Creator is all about you! 21:10).

41:53 In time We will show them Our Signs in the utmost Horizons and within themselves, so that it will become clear to them that this Qur'an is indeed the Truth. Is it not enough for them to know that your Lord is Witness to all things (including this proclamation)?

41:54 Oh, verily, they are still in doubt about the meeting with their Lord! How! Does He not encompass everything?

## Surah 42 – Ash-Shura – Consultation

[Author's note] This is the 42nd Surah of the Qur'an. It has 53 verses. The Title of this Surah, and the admonition that comes forth in it, emphasize that any community of believers must resort to mutual consultation in all matters of collective significance and of individual benefit.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

42:1 H.M. HA-Mim. Hameed the Owner of Praise, Majeed The Glorious.

42:2 'A.S.Q. ‘Ain-Sein-Qaaf. Aleem the Knower, Samee' the Hearer, Qadir the Almighty, proclaims that:

42:3 Thus it is: Revealing to you (O Prophet) as He did to those before you, is Allah, the Almighty, the Wise.

42:4 Unto Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And the Most Exalted, the Tremendous is He.

42:5 The heavens above them would shatter (if the Universe were to run like the humans run their lives 19:88-91). But angels (the Divine Laws) practically extol their Lord’s Glory by protecting the Order in the Universe. Oh, verily, Allah! He alone is the Absolver of imperfections, the Merciful.

(‘Malaekah = Angels = Divine Laws in the Universe. ‘Yastaghfirun’ = They help protect like a helmet protects the head. ‘Sabh’ = Swim in strides = Doing one’s best).

42:6 Now as for those who instead of Him take patrons, Allah is Watcher over them, and you are not a pleader on their behalf.

42:7 And thus: We have revealed to you a Monograph in Arabic so that you may warn the Foremost of all towns and those who dwell around it, and may warn of the Day of Gathering, which is beyond all doubt. One group will be in the Garden, and one group will be in the Flames. (Such will happen in this world and in the life to come).

[The first addressees are the people of Makkah and the dwellers around it, hence the Arabic Language. And from there the Final Word of Allah is to fan out and embrace the entire mankind. (7:158, 12:3, 13:37, 14:4, 13:37, 14:4, 25:1, 39:28, 41:3, 42:7] ]

42:8 Now had Allah willed, He could have made all of them one single community. But Allah brings into His Grace him who so wills (making himself worthy). Whereas for the violators of human rights shall be no patron and no helper.

42:9 Or have they chosen patrons besides Him? But Allah, He alone is the Patron, since it is He alone Who revives the dead. (And His Laws can revive the dead of heart). He is the Appointer of due measure for all things.

42:10 And in whatever you humans may differ, the Decision rests with Allah. (Say), “Such is Allah, my Lord. In Him I trust and unto Him I always turn.” (42:8. Turning to Allah = Turning to His Laws in the Qur’an).

42:11 Originator of the heavens and the earth! He has made for you pairs from among yourselves, and pairs among quadrupeds, whereby He multiplies you. There is nothing whatsoever like unto Him. And He is the Hearer, the Seer.

42:12 His are the Keys of the heavens and the earth. He grants abundant provision, or gives it in scant measure according to His Laws (of Economics given in the Qur’an. Mankind can open His Treasures only with His Keys 7:96, 28:77, 41:10). Behold, He is the Knower of all things.

42:13 He has ordained for you all, the same System of Life that He enjoined upon Noah - And We have revealed to you (O Prophet) the same Message as We enjoined upon Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: "Establish the Divine System of Life and make no sects in it." (O Prophet) Hard it is upon the idolaters (those who worship false 'authorities') the unity you call to. Allah draws unto Himself everyone who is willing, and guides unto Himself everyone who turns unto Him." (Sects vs. Unity: 3:32, 3:104, 6:160, 30:31, 42:13, 45:17-18).

42:14 And they became sects for no reason but through rivalry among themselves, after the Knowledge had come to them. Had it not been for a Word that has already gone forth from your Lord for an appointed term, all matters would have been decided among them. (The Word = The Law of free will, in this context). Behold, the later generations who inherited the Scripture of the old still keep harboring doubts about it.

42:15 Because of this (dilemma), then, (O Messenger) summon all mankind. And stand firm as you are commanded, and follow not their wishes. But announce, "I believe in the Book that Allah has revealed, and I am commanded to be just among you. Allah is our Lord and your Lord. We are responsible for our deeds and you are responsible for your deeds - No argument between us and you! (109:6). Allah will bring us together and unto Him is our journeying."

42:16 And as for those who argue about Allah after He has been accepted (and the Divine System has been established as a living witness to the Truth), futile is their argument at their Lord. And upon them is condemnation and theirs will be a severe retribution.

42:17 Allah it is Who has revealed the Book setting forth the Truth, and the Balance (for people to weigh right and wrong.) And what will make you realize that the Hour (the consequence of your actions) might be close?

42:18 Only those who deny it seek to hasten it. But the believers remain conscious of the Law of Requital knowing that it is the Truth. Oh, verily, those who call the Hour in question have indeed gone far astray. ('As you sow so shall you reap' is all that free will is about).

42:19 Allah is Sublime, Aware of the minutest needs of His servants. He provides for them (even if they deny Him) according to His Laws. And He is the Strong, the Almighty.

42:20 Whoever desires the harvest of the life to come, We increase his harvest. And whoever desires only the harvest of this world, We give him something thereof, but he will have no share in the life to come. (Individuals and nations attain prosperity in both lives only by submitting to the Divine Values 17:19-21).

42:21 What! Do they have 'partners' who have set up for them some religion without Allah's leave? And but for a Decisive Word (the period of Respite), all matters would have been decided between them immediately. Verily, there is an awful doom for those who relegate the Truth.

42:22 You will see the transgressors worrying about what they had been doing, and their earning is bound to fall back upon them. And those who accept the Message and enhance the society will be in flowery rows of the Gardens. For them is whatever they desire from their Lord. This, this indeed is the Great Bounty.

42:23 This is the good news from Allah to His servants who believe and lead a righteous life. Say, "No reward do I ask you for this other than that you show loving kindness to the ones near (in the

 

human bond, and thus seek the Way to your Lord 25:57)." For, anyone who benefits people, We shall grant him additional good. And, verily, Allah is ever Absolver of imperfections, Responsive to gratitude.

42:24 Do they say, “He has invented a lie about Allah?” But then, had Allah so willed, He could have made your heart insensitive (10:16). And Allah will wipe out the falsehood and will prove the Truth by His Words. Verily, He is the Knower of all that is in the hearts.

42:25 And He it is Who accepts repentance from His servants, and pardons their ill-deeds and He knows all you do. (‘Taubah’ = Repentance = Coming to the right course and taking corrective action. Pardon = Blotting out the unfavorable imprints on the human “Self’).

42:26 And accepts all those who attain belief and help others, and He gives them a far exceeding reward from His bounty. But for those who adamantly deny the Truth and choose to stay in darkness, is a severe retribution.

42:27 And if Allah made His provision unlimited for His servants, they would have created more disorder in the earth (by increasing in pride and greed 96:6). But as it is, He bestows His provision in due measure according to His Laws. For, behold, He is Aware, Seer of His servants (their needs and their psyche).

42:28 And He it is Who sends down rain after they have despaired and He spreads out His Grace widely. And He is the Protecting Friend, the Owner of all Praise.

42:29 And among His Signs is the creative design of the Heavens and the Earth, and the living creatures which He has dispersed throughout them. And He is Able to gather them together when He will. (Herein is an allusion to the existence of life in other celestial bodies, and to man meeting with the 'aliens' some day 16:49).

42:30 Now whatever calamity befalls you, is a consequence of your own actions and He pardons a great deal. (If mankind harmonize themselves with Divine Laws, their Systems would run as orderly as the rest of the Universe does).

42:31 And you cannot evade the Law of Requital anywhere in the earth, and you have no protecting friend and no helper besides Allah.

42:32 And among His Signs are the ships that sail like bannered mountains through the seas.

42:33 And if He so wills He calms the winds so that they come to a halt on its surface. Herein, behold, are signs for everyone who is patient (in reading the Book of Nature) and grateful (for what he learns).

42:34 Or that He may cause them to perish as a consequence of their deeds, but He forgives a great deal. (The human ‘Self’ may progress like ships that sail freely through the sea, suffer stagnancy, or perish to a subhuman existence).

42:35 And those who dispute about Our Signs, let them know that they have no shelter outside Our Laws.

42:36 Now whatever you are given is but a fleeting enjoyment of the life of this world. And that which is with Allah is far better and more lasting – for all those who believe in Divine Laws and trust in their Lord.

42:37 And desist from actions that most of all drag down the individual and collective human potential, and from stinginess and obscene behavior, and when annoyed, readily forgive people. (4:31, 53:32. 'Fawahish' = Indecencies, miserliness amounting to shame).

42:38 And who respond to their Lord, and establish the Divine System and who conduct their affairs by mutual consultation. And they spend on others of what We have given them.

42:39 And who, whenever frank injustice afflicts them, stand up for their rights. (They establish the System wherein the oppressed is helped and the oppressor is requited).

42:40 But requiting evil may become an evil in itself! Hence, whoever pardons and makes peace, his reward rests with Allah. Verily, He loves not the violators of human rights.

42:41 And whoever stands up for his rights and defends himself, when he has been wronged, for such, there is no blame against them.

42:42 The blame is against those who oppress people, and cause disorder in the earth resorting to aggression unprovoked. They are the ones for whom there is an awful doom.

42:43 And, verily, whoever is patient and forgives, behold, that indeed is from strength of character.

42:44 And he whom Allah lets go astray has, then on, no protector. And you will see the oppressors when they face the punishment how they say, "Is there any way of return!" (Allah lets go astray = People only go astray by defying the Divine Law of Guidance 4:88).

42:45 And you will see them facing it, humiliated, looking and yet not looking. And those who believe will say, "Verily, lost on this Day of Resurrection are those who had wasted their own 'Self' and their families." Oh, verily, the wrongdoers will fall into lasting suffering.

42:46 And they will have no patrons to help them instead of Allah. One who goes astray by violating the Laws of Guidance, for him there is no road. (42:44).

42:47 Hence, respond to your Lord before there comes to you from Allah a Day which is not to be averted. There will be no shelter for you on that Day nor will you have any rebuttal to what you did.

42:48 But if they turn away, We have not sent you as a guardian over them. Your job is to convey the Message. And behold, when We cause man to taste of Grace form Us, he rejoices in it. And if a calamity befalls them as a consequence of their own doings, then, behold, man is contentious against Divine Laws. (They say that God had so willed).

42:49 To Allah belongs the Dominion of the heavens and the earth. He creates and designs all things according to His Laws. He bestows the gift of daughters according to His Laws and the gift of sons according to His Laws.

42:50 Or He bestows both males and females, and He leaves infertile some according to His Laws. For, verily, He is the all Knowing Appointer of designs.

42:51 And it is not for any human being that Allah will speak to him other than through direct Revelation (on the heart of His Messengers) or from behind a barrier (such as at Mount Sinai to Moses) or by sending a Messenger to convey His Words with His Permission (as all Messengers did). Verily, He is the Most High, the Wise.

42:52 And thus We have revealed to you (O Prophet) a life-giving Message, by Our Command. You knew not what Revelation is, nor what Faith implies. (That the Power of Faith could revolutionize humanity). But now We have made it a Light, whereby We show the Way to Our servants according to Our Law of Guidance. And, verily, (O Prophet) you shall certainly show them the Straight Path.

42:53 The Path that leads to Allah, to Whom belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. Oh, verily, with Allah is the beginning and with Him is the end of all affairs. (All things go back to Him as their Source, and all things pursue their course according to His Laws).

## Surah 43 – Az-Zukhruf – Ornaments

[Author's note] This is the 43rd Surah of the Qur'an and it has 89 brief verses. The title reflects upon a deplorable tendency of mankind, that of seeing the woman as an article of beauty and adornment. All along history man has victimized woman making her a subject of his desire. Ancient religions and even modern philosophies have depicted the woman having been created for man's pleasure. This flawed idea has been so forcefully and consistently propagated that even to this day one half of mankind is consciously or unconsciously assigned a secondary role in the worlds of thought and action. And the woman, in general, has happily accepted this relegation!

The Qur'an was the first-ever effective voice against this exploitation of women bringing them equal to men in all respects. This Divine Writ recognizes the special roles women have in the society and brings them at par with men concerning all human rights. Ironically, fabricated Ahadith came two centuries after the Qur'an to shackle the poor woman back into the same chains that the Qur'an had broken. Hence, we see the violation of women's rights in the so-called Muslim societies no less than other cultures till this day!

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

43:1 H.M. Ha-Mim. Hameed Owner of all Praise, Majeed Owner of Glory, states that:

43:2 Witness to itself is this Scripture that is clear in itself and shows the Truth clearly.

43:3 Behold, We have made it a Monograph in clear Arabic language that you may fully understand. (7:158, 12:3, 13:37, 14:4, 25:1, 39:28, 41:3, 42:7).

43:4 And, verily, in the Source of Decrees with Us, it is indeed sublime, decisive.

43:5 Should We withdraw the Reminder from you just because you are a people bent upon wasting yourselves?

43:6 And how many a Prophet did We send to the previous generations!

43:7 But never came unto them a Prophet, but they mocked him.

43:8 And so, We annihilated them. They were mightier in prowess than these are. They were made history and this fact should serve as an example for these people. ('Madha mathal' = An image of the past, lost and gone).

43:9 If you ask them, "Who created the heavens and the earth?” They will answer, “The Almighty, the Knower created them."

43:10 He it is Who has made the earth a cradle for you and has made roads therein and ways of subsistence, so that you may find ways to your destination. ('Subula' = Ways and means).

43:11 And He it is Who sends down water from the sky in due measure. And We revive with it a dead land, thus will you be brought forth.

43:12 And He it is Who has created all the pairs and He it is Who has given you all those ships and quadrupeds on which you ride.

43:13 So that you might have control of the means of transport, and that upon gaining control of them you might remember your Lord's Blessings, and say, "Glorified is He Who has made all this of service to us. (Against His Laws) we would not have been able to attain this control. (‘Alayehi’: The singular form here refers to transport including the ships and the quadrupeds).

43:14 Hence, verily, it is unto Him that we must always turn.“

43:15 And yet they have ‘made’ some of His servants to be a part of Him! Verily, most obviously ungrateful is man!

43:16 What! Has He taken daughters out of what He Himself created and grants you sons of your choice?

43:17 Yet if any of them is given the glad tiding of what he likens to the Beneficent, his face saddens and he is filled with hidden anger.

43:18 (He says), “What! That which has to be raised in ornaments?” And then he finds himself in an inner conflict (whether to let the daughter live or bury her in the dust! 16:58-59.)

[‘Wa huwa fil khisam’ is commonly rendered to mean that the baby girl would grow up to be less eloquent in a conflict. But, after much reflection, I find myself in agreement with Allama Muhammad Asad, since ‘Huwa’ is a male pronoun referring to the father and not to the baby-girl. Moreover, 16:58-59 support the translation done here]

43:19 And they ‘make’ the angels who are servants of the Beneficent, females. Did they witness their creation? Their testimony will be recorded, and they will be called to account (for their false claims).

43:20 Yet they say, "If it had been the Will of the Beneficent, we should not have worshiped them." But, of that, they have no knowledge. (That there is no room for fatalism in Divine Laws. Humans have been endowed with free will 6:149, 36:47). They only wander in the valley of conjecture.

43:21 What! Have We given them a scripture before this to which they are holding fast?

43:22 Nay, but they say, "Behold, we found our fathers following a certain religion, and we find our way in their footprints."

43:23 Thus it is. Whenever We sent, before you, a Warner to a community, its luxurious ones said, "Behold, We found our fathers following a certain religion, and we are following their footprints."

43:24 (Whereupon the Prophet would say), “Why! Even though I bring you better guidance than that you found your ancestors following?" They replied, "Behold, We deny what you are sent with.”

43:25 And so We requited them. Then see what the outcome of the deniers was.

43:26 And when Abraham declared to his father and his people, "Verily, I do indeed free myself of what you worship.

43:27 None (shall I serve) but He Who brought me into being, and, behold, He it is Who will guide me.”

43:28 And He left an enduring lesson for subsequent generations that they may seek inspiration from it. (Taking a firm stand against blind following).

43:29 As it is, I have let these people, and their fathers get along with their lives, until the Truth has come to them and a Messenger making things clear (and afford them a chance to achieve true success).

43:30 But now that the Truth has come to them, they say, "It is a magical lie and, behold, we are disbelievers therein.”

43:31 And they say, "Why was not this Qur'an sent down to some great man of the two towns (Makkah and Taif)."

43:32 But are they the ones who distribute your Lord's Grace (of Revelation)? Nay, it is We Who distribute among them even their material needs in the life of the world. And We grade them in work so that they might help one another (with different skills). And the Grace of your Lord (the revealed Guidance) is better than all the wealth they amass. (16:53, 16:71).

43:33 If mankind were intended to become One Community (through wealth and not through Ideology), We might have made all those who disbelieve in the Beneficent super rich, giving them roofs of silver for their houses and stairs of silver to climb.

 

43:34 And for their houses doors of silver and couches of silver to recline on.

43:35 And gold! Yet all this would have been but a fleeting delight of the life of the world. But the Eternity with your Lord belongs to those who walk aright.

43:36 Whoever closes his eyes to the remembrance of the Beneficent, to him We assign a Satan as an intimate companion. (His desires overtake him).

43:37 And, behold, they surely hinder them from the Way, but (rationalizing their actions) they think that they are guided aright.

43:38 But in the end when he comes to Us, he will say (to his split self), "Ah, I wish I was far apart from you as the East is from the West! Ah, what a miserable companion!"

43:39 It will not console you on that Day that after doing wrong together, you are now partners in punishment!

43:40 But, can you make the deaf of heart hear or show the way to the blind of heart? Such is the case of him who obviously wishes to wander off road.

43:41 (O Prophet) Even if We take you away, verily, Our Requital is inevitable for them.

43:42 Or, We may show you what We promise them. (If they accept the Message they will be blessed with Our bounties, instead of suffering). Behold, We have full power over them. (10:46, 13:40, 23:95, 40:78).

43:43 So hold fast unto what is revealed to you. For, verily, you are on a Straight Path.

43:44 And, behold, this Reminder will give eminence to you and your people. But in time, all of you will be called to account for what you have done with it. (21:10, 21:24, 25:30).

43:45 Check the Messengers (their Message) We sent before you. Did We ever appoint gods to be worshiped other than the Beneficent?

43:46 Thus indeed, We sent Moses with Our Messages to Pharaoh and his chiefs, and he said, "Behold, I am a Messenger of the Lord of the Worlds."

43:47 But when he presented them Our Messages, behold, they laughed at them.

43:48 We showed them Sign after Sign each greater than the previous like of it, and We took them to task with suffering so that they might turn (to make amends 7:133).

43:49 But they kept saying, "O Wizard! Pray for us to your Lord according to His covenant with you. For, verily, we shall now walk the right way."

43:50 But as soon as we relieved their affliction, behold, they broke their word.

43:51 (As Moses was becoming popular), Pharaoh kept announcing to his people, "O My people! Is not mine the Kingdom of Egypt, and these streams flowing beneath me? What! See you not then?

43:52 Am I not better than this despicable fellow man who can hardly make his point? (Pharaoh held the Divine Message in low esteem and not the speech of Moses as suggested in some traditions).

43:53 And then, why have no golden armlets been bestowed on him? Or why have no angels come along escorting him?" (‘Aswirah’ = Armlets of gold, which were considered a sign of honor, stature and royalty in many civilizations).

43:54 Thus did he stupefy his people and they obeyed him. Verily, they were a nation who readily drifted away from the Truth.

43:55 So when they continued to challenge us, We requited them and drowned them all.

43:56 And so We made them history and an example for later generations.

43:57 When the son of Mary is mentioned as an example (O Prophet), behold, your people raise an outcry about it.

43:58 And they say, "Which is better, our gods or he?” They raise this objection as a vain argument. Nay! But they are a contentious folk.

43:59 He was nothing but a servant whom We had graced (with Revelation) and whom We made an example for the Children of Israel.

43:60 And had We so willed We could have made you humans into angels succeeding one another on earth.

[Verses 43:57-60: The idolaters in this instance are referring to angels being their gods, claiming that angels are better than Jesus, a mortal human being according to the Qur’an. Furthermore, angels being devoid of free will are obviously sinless, while the humans have been endowed with free will, and, therefore, are accountable for their actions. These verses are refuting divinity of angels by stating that they succeed one another. Also being refuted is the Doctrine of Atonement whereby mere acceptance of Jesus as the ‘Savior’ is believed to render humans sinless like angels. Allah willed the earth to be inhabited by the imperfect humans though crowned with the capacity to make their own choices]

43:61 And, behold, this (Qur’an) indeed gives knowledge of the Hour. Hence, bear no doubt about it and follow Me. This alone is the Straight Path.

[Many commentators regard ‘Innahu’ in this verse as relating to Jesus and then postulate that Jesus is the sign of the Resurrection Day. In my opinion, this fallacy is the result of:

- Missing the context of free will in the last few verses.
- Taking the Hour only to mean the Resurrection Day. But 'The Hour' is frequently mentioned in the Qur'an to indicate the Revolution, the ultimate outcome, and the culmination of the Law of Requital.

- Losing sight of the capital M in ‘follow Me’, that is Allah. There is no ‘Qul’, say to them, or tell them O Prophet, in this verse. 'Follow Me' would then clearly signify 'Follow the Qur'an'.

Here is my humble explanation of the verse:

This Qur’an stresses upon you the inevitability of the Law of Requital. Bear no doubt that you will be held accountable for all your actions, hence; follow My Commands given in this Book of Mine.]

43:62 And let not Satan (your whims and deceivers) bar you from it. Behold, he is your open enemy.

43:63 Now when Jesus came with the evident Truth, he said, "Now I have come unto you with wisdom and to make clear to you some of the issues on which you differ. So, be mindful of Allah and heed me.

43:64 Behold, Allah, He is my Lord and your Lord. So worship Him alone. This is a Straight Way."

43:65 (This was the true Monotheism he had brought) but factions among them began to hold different views. Then anguish of an awful Day awaits those who wrongfully deviated.

43:66 (Herein was the response to the idolaters’ objections about their idols and Jesus 43:58.) Do they only wait for the Revolution that will (seem to) come upon them all of a sudden while yet they understand not?

43:67 Friends on that Day will be foes to one another except those who walk aright. (The Divine Ideology will keep them close).

43:68 [And Allah will say:] O My servants! No fear for you this Day nor are you to grieve.

43:69 You who believed in Our Messages and surrendered to Us.

43:70 Enter the Garden, you and your spouses, rejoicing.

43:71 Therein they will be served around in trays and goblets of gold. And therein is all that a person might desire and the eyes might delight in. And you are immortal therein.

43:72 Such is the Paradise that you shall have inherited by virtue of your deeds.

43:73 Fruits of those deeds shall you have in abundance to partake thereof.

43:74 But, behold, those who stole the fruit of others' labor shall abide in the suffering of Hell.

43:75 It will not be relaxed for them, and therein they will be in despair.

43:76 And it is not We Who wrong them, but it is they who used to hurt their own "Self" by doing wrong to others.

43:77 And they will cry, "O keeper (of Hell)! Let your Lord finish us!" He will answer, "Verily, you must live on."

43:78 Indeed We have conveyed to you the Truth, but most of you resent the Truth.

43:79 What! Have they devised a plan? Behold, it is We Who determine the outcome.

43:80 Or do they think that We do not hear their secret plans and private meetings? Yes indeed, We do, and Our envoys are with them, recording. (10:21).

43:81 Say (O Prophet), "If the Beneficent ever had a son, I would be the first to worship him."

43:82 Glorified is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, the Lord of Supreme Control, from what they ascribe to Him.

43:83 So let them chatter and play until they meet their Day which they have been promised.

43:84 He it is Who is God in the heaven and God in the earth. And He is the Wise, the Knower.

43:85 And Blessed is He to Whom belongs the Kingdom of the Highs and the Lows and all that is between them. And with Him is the knowledge of the Hour, and unto Him you shall be returned. (And, He knows when mankind will rally around the Divine Ideology, and every step of yours is getting closer to it).

43:86 And those whom they call instead of Him possess no power of intercession, except such who stand up to witness in truth and they know. (2:255).

43:87 Now if you ask them who created them, they will surely answer, “Allah.” So how come are they lost in the wilderness of thought! (43:9).

43:88 By his (the Prophet’s) silent cry, "O My Lord! Behold, these are a folk who believe not!" (His call will be heard. 18:6, 26:3).

43:89 Then bear with them, and say, "Peace!" In time, they will come to know what they now don’t.

## Surah 44 – Ad-Dukhan – The Smoke

[Author's note] This is the 44th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 59 verses. The Surah derives its name from the air pollution that will become wide spread in the world as nations industrialize. (41:11 also mentions Smoke, the nebulae of gas out of which the Universe was shaped billions of years ago). The brief verses in this Surah take us along with TASREEF and powerful concepts.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

44:1 H.M. Ha-Mim. Hameed Owner of all Praise, Majeed Owner of all Glory, states that:

44:2 By this Divine Writ that is clear in itself and makes things clear.

44:3 Behold, We have revealed it on a Blessed Night, for, verily We have always been warning. (Revealed on the Prophet's heart in a Blessed Night in the month of Ramadhan, 610 C.E., and then conveyed to mankind in stages over a period of 23 years. 2:185, 97:1).

44:4 Herein is distinctly presented every Matter of Wisdom.

44:5 A Command from Our Presence, behold, We have always been sending.

44:6 A Mercy from your Lord. Behold! He is the Hearer, the Knower.

44:7 Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, if you could ever attain conviction.

44:8 There is no god but He. He it is Who gives life and gives death; your Lord and the Lord of your earliest ancestors.

44:9 Nay, but they are toying with their doubts.

44:10 Wait, then, for the Day when the sky will bring forth a pall of visible smoke.

44:11 Enveloping all mankind, heralding an outcry, "Grievous is this suffering!

44:12 O Our Lord! Relieve us of this suffering. Behold, now we are believers (in Your Laws)."

44:13 How can there be another Reminder for them seeing that a Messenger had already come to them, clearly expounding the Truth? (And this Qur'an is the Eternal Reminder).

44:14 Whereupon they had turned away from him, and said, "Taught and tutored is he, a man possessed?"

44:15 Still, behold, We shall postpone this suffering for a while although you will revert to your old ways.

44:16 On the Day when We shall seize with the mighty grasp, verily, We shall indeed dispense Our Requital.

44:17 And indeed We put to test before them Pharaoh's nation, for there came unto them an honorable Messenger.

44:18 (He said), "Pay attention to me O Servants of Allah! Verily, I am a Messenger to you worthy of trust. ('Add' = Pay dues, to give in, to listen, to return the trust).

44:19 Exalt not yourselves against Allah, for, verily, I have come to you with a Clear Authority (Divine Revelation).

44:20 And, behold, it is with my Lord and your Lord that I seek refuge against that you debar me. ('Rajm' = Debar, stone, revile, expel, insult, dismiss, humiliate, curse, deride, mock ridicule, belittle).

44:21 And if you do not believe in me, then simply leave me alone." (Allow me to take my people with me. Thereupon Pharaoh and his chiefs denied him).

44:22 So he cried unto his Lord, "This is an exploitive people.” (‘Mujrim’ = One who thrives on the fruit of others’ toil = Exploitive).

44:23 (And his Lord Commanded), "Take away My servants by night. Behold, you will be followed.

44:24 And leave the ebbed, becalmed sea behind, for, verily, they are an army destined to be drowned."

[Idhrib bi'asak = Strike with your staff = Seek for them a dry path (20:77, 26:59-63). Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night (Exodus xiv, 21). Moses crossed the Red Sea at the northwest extremity of today’s Gulf of Suez, the bed wherein was that of reeds]

44:25 How many gardens did they leave behind, and water-springs,

44:26 And fields of grain, and grand palaces,

44:27 And blessings that they enjoyed.

44:28 Thus it was! And We made another people heirs. (26:59-63).

44:29 And neither the sky nor the earth wept over them, nor were they reprieved again. (Pharaoh and his people got completely annihilated leaving behind no possibility of resurgence).

44:30 And, indeed, We delivered the Children of Israel from the humiliating suffering (of bondage).

44:31 From Pharaoh, for he glorified himself to the extent of wasting his own “Self.”

44:32 And, indeed, We chose them among the contemporary nations because of the Knowledge (of Revelation).

[Historically, the Israelites were the only Monotheistic people in the world in that era]

44:33 And We gave them Signs in which there was a manifest trial.

[Signs: Revelation through Moses, freedom and prosperity, the fertile and blessed land of Canaan (Palestine), a Divinely chosen status, the great Kingdoms of David and Solomon, the Prophets of the Tribes, the advent of Jesus. When they failed in the trials, they were left to wander in bewilderment and lost their “chosen” status]

44:34 Behold, now, these people say,

44:35 "There is nothing but our first death, and we shall not be raised again.

44:36 So then, bring back our forefathers if you are men of truth.”

44:37 Are they, then, by any means better than the nation of Tubba and those before them? (Yet)We annihilated them for their violation of human rights. (50:14).

[The Himairi (Himayar) Tribe had gained control of the Kingdom of Sheba in 115 B.C. and ruled until 300 C.E. (For their times see Surah 27, An-Naml and Surah 34, Saba). Tubba' was the most prominent of their kings, and he was a Unitarian Christian as were most Christians before the Roman Conference of Nicea in 325 C.E.]

44:38 For, We have not created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, merely in idle sport.

44:39 None of this have We created without Purpose. But most of them are not aware of this fact. (They fail to realize that the human 'Self' lives on after death and must be recompensed in the Hereafter).

44:40 Verily, the Day of Decision is appointed for them all.

44:41 The Day, when no friend shall be of avail to his friend, and none shall be helped.

44:42 Except those who made themselves worthy of Allah's Mercy. For, verily, He, He alone is the Mighty, the Merciful.

44:43 Verily, the tree of bitter deeds,

44:44 Will be the food of him who plunged down his and other's capacities. (17:60, 37:62-65).

44:45 Like molten brass will it boil in the belly.

44:46 As the boiling, burning despair. (102:1-2).

44:47 Take him and drag him into the midst of hell. (That is what the greed does 104:1-9)

44:48 Then pour upon his head the boiling anguish.

44:49 Taste! Behold, you considered yourself so mighty, so noble. (But the Law of Requital is absolutely just 56:52).

44:50 Behold, this is the very thing you doubted (and hence, trampled Divine Values).

44:51 Verily, those who walked aright, will find themselves in a secure state.

44:52 Amid gardens and water springs.

44:53 Dressed in fine silk and in rich brocade, in a company affectionate they will be.

44:54 Thus shall it be. And We shall pair them with virtuous companions of beautiful vision.

44:55 In that Paradise they shall claim all the delicious fruits of their deeds in blissful contentment.

44:56 True immortality! They taste not death again after the first death. Thus will He save them from getting stuck at the Insurmountable Barrier. (2:28, 40:11).

44:57 A Bounty from your Lord! That is the Supreme Triumph.

44:58 Thus, then, (O Prophet) We have made this Qur'an easy to understand, in your own human language, so that people might take it to their minds and hearts.

44:59 So wait you and watch. Behold, they too have to wait.

**Surah 45 – Al-Jathia – Kneeling down**

[Authors' note] This is the 45th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 37 verses. The brief verses in this Surah take us along powerful concepts with TASREEF. All nations, eventually, will kneel down before the Laws of their Lord.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

45:1 H.M. Ha-Mim. Hameed Owner of all Praise, Majeed Owner of all Glory states that:

45:2 The Revelation of the Book is from Allah, the Mighty, the Wise.

45:3 Behold, in the heavens and the earth are Signs for all who are willing to attain conviction.

45:4 And in your own creative design, and in all the animals which He has spread widely, there are Signs for those who explore and attain certainty.

45:5 And in the alternation of the night and the day, and in the means of sustenance which Allah sends down from the Height, reviving the earth which had been lifeless, and in the change of winds and seasons - in all this are Signs for people who use their reason.

45:6 These are the Messages of Allah We convey to you with Truth. Then, in what HADITH, if not in Allah and His Verses, will they believe?

45:7 Woe unto every fabricating impostor! (26:222).

45:8 (The impostor) who hears Allah's Verses conveyed to him, yet he is haughtily obstinate, as though he never heard them. Hence, announce unto him grievous punishment.

45:9 For when he learns anything of Our Verses, he belittles them. Theirs is a shameful suffering in store.

45:10 Ahead of them is Hell, and what they have earned will not avail them, nor will the AWLIA (saints, sufis, imams) whom they had chosen besides Allah. Theirs will be an awesome suffering. (29:24, 79:36, 82:16).

45:11 Guidance is this Qur'an. And those who deny the Revelations of their Lord, for them is a weakening chastisement.

45:12 Allah it is Who has made the sea of service to you that the ships may run thereon by His Command, and that you may seek of His Bounty, and that you may be grateful.

45:13 And He has made subservient to you, from Himself, all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. Therein, behold, are Signs for people and nations who reflect.

45:14 Tell all believers that they should forgive and try to save those who do not believe in the oncoming Days of Allah. It is for Him alone to recompense each nation for their good or ill deeds that they have earned. (Days of Allah = When mankind establishes the Divine System on earth. (14:5. ‘Yaghfir’ = Forgive = Protect from the harmful effects of misdeeds).

45:15 Whoever helps others helps himself. And whoever hurts others hurts his own ‘Self’. And in the end all of you will be brought back unto your Lord.

('Amale Saleh' = Fulfilling others' needs = Enhance human potential = Take corrective action = Help the individual or society = Doing collective good = Grow in goodness. 'Amale Su' = Destabilize someone = Hurting others = Causing imbalance = Promoting injustice and inequity).

45:16 And, indeed, We gave to the Children of Israel the Scripture, the Rule and a succession of Prophets, and provided them with good things and bestowed upon them bounties more than other nations of the time. (3:78, 6:90).

45:17 And gave them clear Commandments. Yet, they fell for differences through rivalry among themselves after Knowledge had come to them. Behold, your Lord will judge between them on the Resurrection Day concerning all they differed about.

45:18 And now We have appointed you (O Messenger) on the Right Way. So follow it, and yield not to the whims of the ignorant. (42:13).

45:19 Behold, they cannot avail you the least against Allah. And, verily, the wrongdoers are friends unto one another, while Allah is the Friend of those who walk aright.

45:20 The Messages right before you are a means of vision and insight for mankind, and a Guidance and a Grace for people who wish to live by conviction rather than uncertainty.

45:21 What! Do those who disrupt others’ lives think that We will treat them, in life and death, like believers and helpers of humanity? Off balance, indeed, is their judgment!

45:22 For, Allah has created the heavens and the earth with Purpose, and that every person shall be repaid what he or she has earned. And none shall be wronged.

45:23 Have you ever noted him who makes his desire his god? Consequently Allah lets him go astray despite his knowledge. The Divine Law seals his hearing and heart, and places a veil on his sight. Then who will lead him after he has left Allah? Will you not then take this admonition to heart? (46:26).

45:24 And yet they say, "There is nothing beyond our life of this world. We die as we come to life (per chance) and nothing destroys us but Time." But of that they have no knowledge. They do nothing but make a wild guess.

45:25 And when Our Revelations are conveyed to them in all clarity, their only argument is this, "Bring back our forefathers if you are truthful."

45:26 Say, "It is Allah who gives you life, and then causes you to die. And He will gather all of you together on the Resurrection Day, the advent of which is beyond doubt." But most people know not (that the human 'Self' survives the physical death).

45:27 For, unto Allah belongs the Dominion of the heavens and the earth. And on the Day when the Hour stands – on that Day will be lost all those who run after the mirage of Falsehood.

45:28 And you will see every nation kneeling down, each nation called to its record. (And it will be said), "This Day you shall be paid for all that you ever did."

45:29 "This Our Record tells the truth about you. Behold, We arranged for all your doings to be meticulously recorded.

45:30 Now as for those who accepted the Message and helped the society, their Lord will admit them into His Grace. That! That is the Obvious Triumph.

45:31 And as for those who rejected the Truth (they will be told), "Were not My Messages conveyed to you? But you took an arrogant stance since you were an exploitive folk."

45:32 And when it was said, "Behold, Allah's Promise always comes true and there is no doubt about the Hour - you would reply, "We do not know what the Hour is. We think it could be conjecture, however, we are not certain!"

45:33 And their disruptive actions will become obvious to them and the very thing they used to mock will surround them.

45:34 And it will be said, "This Day We forget you, just as you forgot the meeting of this your Day. And your abode is the Fire, and there is none to help you.

45:35 This, because you ridiculed Allah's Messages, having allowed the life of the world to deceive you." This Day, therefore, they will not be taken out, nor can they make mends.

45:36 (Time is now to realize) Then, all Praise is due to Allah, Lord of the heavens and Lord of the earth, the Lord of the Worlds!

45:37 And His alone is all Majesty in the Universe, and He alone is Almighty, Most Wise.

Surah 46 – Al-Ahqaf – The Sand-dunes

[Author's note] This is the 46th Surah of the Qur'an, and it has 35 verses. The Surah derives its name from the sand dunes that were a part of the landscape inhabited by the second generation of the powerful tribe of Aad in the Southeastern Arabian Peninsula. To the mightier first generation Aad was sent Prophet Hud, perhaps next in line only to Noah who was the first ever Apostle of Allah. Contrary to popular belief Adam is the allegorical use of ADAMI or the human being. The Qur'an does not refer to him as a Prophet. Dispelling the Biblical and Muslim traditional influence, 4:163 confirms that Noah was the first ever Prophet of Allah as do 6:85, 10:74, 57:26-27.

Historically, the times of Noah and Aad have only been a matter of estimates, perhaps, 5000-6000 B.C. Aad were, however, the descendants of Iram son of Sam son of Noah.

The Divine Law of Requital is unchangeable, unavoidable and completely impartial for all individuals and all nations.

Requital in fact stands for Just Recompense ('JAZA'), and not for chastisement. Simply put, the Law of Requital is, "As you sow, so shall you reap." Our actions carry along with them their built-in logical consequences. Hence, as the Qur'an frequently reminds, we begin to make our hell or paradise with our own hands right in this world. "Pie in the Sky" is a dogma foreign and alien to the Qur'an.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

46:1 H.M. Ha-Mim. Hameed Owner of all Praise, Majeed Owner of all Glory, states that:

46:2 The Revelation of this Book is from Allah, the Almighty, the Wise.

46:3 We have not created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them without Purpose, and for a term appointed. And yet, those who are determined to deny the Truth turn away from what they are warned against.

46:4 Say, "Have you ever given thought to what it is that you call upon instead of Allah? Show me what they have created of the earth. Or do they have a share in the heavens? Bring me a Scripture before this one, or even some remains of knowledge if you are true in your claim."

46:5 And who could be further astray than one who invokes, instead of Allah, such as respond not to him even until the Day of Resurrection, and, in fact, are totally unaware of their call.

46:6 And when mankind is gathered, the false deities will become enemies to those who worshiped them, and will utterly reject their worship.

46:7 But when Our Clear Messages are conveyed to them, the rejecters say of the Truth as soon as it reaches them, "This is obviously a magical lie." ('Sihr' = Magic = Lie = Delusion = Spellbinding eloquence = Amazing = Incredible = Surprising).

46:8 Or do they say, "He has invented all this?" Say, "If I have invented it, still you have no power to support me against Allah. He is fully Aware of your reckless flight of imagination. He suffices for a witness between me and you. And He is the Forgiving, the Merciful." (You shall come to know what you now don't. And the Forgiving, the Merciful Allah has ordained the Law of Respite for you 37:175, 39:39).

46:9 Say, "I am not the first of the Messengers, and I cannot predict what will encounter me and encounter you. I do but follow what is revealed unto me, and I am but a plain Warner."

46:10 Say, "What if it is from Allah and you rejected it! A witness from the Children of Israel has already borne witness to the advent of one like himself. And he has believed while you are showing arrogance. Verily, Allah does not guide people who relegate the Truth."

 

[A witness from the Children of Israel = Moses, in Deuteronomy xviii, 15-18, “A Prophet like unto me.” Some commentators erroneously mention a hadith referring to Hazrat Abdullah bin Salam, a convert from Judaism, as being the witness. But that proposition is obviously too weak to find a place in the Qur’an]

46:11 And the deniers speak thus of the believers, "If this Message were any good, these people would not have accepted it before us." But since they choose not to be guided by it, they say, "This has been a fabrication since ancient times."

46:12 And yet, before this was the Scripture of Moses, an example and a grace. And this (Qur’an) is a Book confirming the Truth (in Torah), in the Arabic Tongue, to warn the wrongdoers, and a herald of glad tiding for the doers of good.

46:13 Behold, those who say, "Our Lord is Allah," and thereafter stand firm and walk aright, no fear will come upon them nor shall they grieve.

46:14 Such are the rightful dwellers of the Garden, immortal therein, as a reward for all they have done.

46:15 Now, We have enjoined upon man goodness toward his parents. In pain did his mother bear him, and in pain did she give him birth. The carrying of the child and his total dependence on her took thirty months. And so, when he attains maturity and reaches forty years, he says, "My Lord! Enable me to be grateful for the blessings You have given me and to my parents, and that I may do works that meet Your Approval. And cause my generations to be righteous as well. Verily, unto you I turn, and truly do I submit to you." (2:233, 7:189, 31:14).

46:16 Such are those from whom We accept the best of their deeds and We shall absolve their imperfections. They are among the dwellers of Paradise. This is the True Promise that is made to them. ('Best of their deeds' indicates Allah's Reward surpassing the best of the best).

46:17 And whoever says to his parents, “Shameful it is for both of you! Do you threaten me that I shall be brought forth again although so many generations have passed away before me?” And they both pray for Allah’s help and say, “Alas for you! Believe! Behold, Allah’s promise always comes true. But he replies, “All this is nothing but fables of the ancient.”

46:18 Such are the ones against whom the Word came to pass among the previous generations of the rural and the urban. Verily, they will be lost!

46:19 And for all there will be ranks according to what they did that He may recompense their actions. And none shall be wronged.

46:20 And on the Day when the deniers are exposed to the Fire, it will be said, “You squandered the good things in the life of the world and only sought immediate comfort. Now this Day you are rewarded with a humiliating doom for your unjust pride, and because you drifted away from humanity.

46:21 And remember the brother of Aad when he warned his people in their Land of Sand-dunes. And, verily, Warners came and went before and after him, saying, “Serve none but Allah. Behold, I fear for you the retribution of a Tremendous Day.”

46:22 They answered, “Have you come to turn us away from our gods?” Bring, then, upon us that with which you threaten us if you are a man of truth.”

46:23 He said, “That knowledge is with Allah alone. I announce to you the Mission on which I have been sent. But I see that you are a people who prefer to live in the darkness of ignorance.”

46:24 And so, when they saw a dense cloud approaching their valleys, they said, “Here is a dense cloud bringing us the needed rain.” Nay, this is the very thing you challenged to hasten – a wind wherein is painful torment.

46:25 Bound to destroy everything by its Lord’s Command. And morning found them so that nothing could be seen but their empty dwellings. Thus do We reward the exploitive people.

46:26 And verily, We had established them in the land better than We ever established you, and We had given them keen faculties of hearing, sight and intellect. But of no avail to them were there hearing and sight and intellect when they went on knowingly rejecting Allah’s Messages. And so, the very thing they used to mock at surrounded them.
(‘Fuad’, plural 'Afidah', includes the faculties of intellect, reasoning, insight and feelings 45:23).

46:27 Thus indeed have We annihilated many townships round about you, after We had explained Our Messages from different vantage points that they might return. (Townships and communities: Aad, Thamud, Sheba, Midyan, Sodom, Gomorrah, Ninevah, Tubba’).

46:28 Why did then no help come to them from those whom they idolized besides Allah, as a means of nearness (to Him)? Nay, their idols abandoned them, for that was their falsehood and fabrication.

46:29 (O Messenger) Behold, We turned toward you a company of the nomads so that they might listen to the Qur’an. And as soon as they were in its presence, they said, “Listen in silence!” And when it was over, they hurried to their people as Warners! (72:1).

46:30 They said, “O Our people! Behold, We have heard a Scripture that has been revealed after Moses, confirming the Divine Origin of what came before it. It guides to the Truth and to a Straight Road."

[These nomads were obviously followers of the Jewish faith since they make no mention of Jesus.]

46:31 "O Our people! Respond to the one who invites to Allah and believe in Him. He will absolve your fault of trailing behind and guard you against an awful suffering.”

46:32 "And whoever fails to respond to Allah’s caller, cannot evade Him on earth, nor can he find patrons other than Him. Such people are obviously lost in error."

46:33 Do they not realize that Allah Who created the heavens and the earth, and wearied not with their creation, is Able to revive the dead? Yes, indeed, He has power over all things. (50:15).

46:34 And on the Day when the rejecters will be exposed to the Fire (they will be asked), “Is not for real?” They will answer, “Yes indeed, by our Lord!” He will say, “Taste, then, this punishment as a consequence of your denial of the Truth.”

46:35 And so, hold on to patience, as did the Messengers of firm resolve. And hasten not about which way they choose. On the Day when they shall see what they are promised, it will seem to them as if they had not lived in the world more than an hour of the day. A Clear Message! Shall anyone perish except those who drift away from the right path? (‘What they are promised’ enfolds the glad tiding if they choose to walk aright and, in that instance, they will feel that a new blissful chapter of life dawns upon them. On the other hand, ‘What they are promised’ enfolds grievous suffering if they persist in their denial of the Truth.)

Surah 47 – Muhammad – Muhammad

[Author's note] This is the 47th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 38 verses. Herein we find the Command that prisoners of war must be freed as soon as the hostilities are over. This Command eradicated, in one stroke, the biggest source of slavery and freed mankind from bondage. Along with other concepts, the Surah emphasizes that going through life without a Noble Ideology is not becoming of a human being.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

47:1 (Know that) those who deny the Truth and bar others from the Way of Allah, He causes their actions to be lost. (Even their good deeds will carry no weight against this mountain load of infringement).

47:2 Whereas those who attain faith and help enhance the society, and believe in what has been revealed to Muhammad – for he is the Truth from their Lord - He will absolve their imperfections, erase the imprints of their faults, and direct their hearts and minds unto rightful contentment.

[‘Huwa’ = He (the Prophet). ‘Bal’ = State, condition. 'Salhil bal' = Real improvement of condition along with inner contentment]

47:3 This, because those who deny the Truth (have no choice but to) follow Falsehood, and those who believe follow the Truth from their Lord. This is how Allah exemplifies concepts to people from within their own composition. (‘Amthalahum’ = Their own examples = Illustrations from within themselves = Their own demonstrations = Typify from their own).

47:4 Now if you meet the disbelievers in battle, strike at their command centers. When you have subdued them, bind in a firm bond, and thereafter an act of kindness or ransom till the battle lays down its weapons. (Free the captives as an act of kindness or ransom, such as in exchange for your men in their captivity. There is no third option). And if Allah willed, He could indeed punish them Himself, but that He may let you humans test one by means of another (as to which nation remains vigilant). And, as for those who are slain in the Cause of Allah, He will never let their actions be lost.

[‘Fadharb ar-riqab’ is usually rendered as ‘smite at their necks.’ A little contemplation, however, makes it plain that in a battle of swords and arrows no commander would order his soldiers to aim for the necks alone. Therefore, the stated term has been used idiomatically, indicating knocking out the command centers. It is interesting to note that even in today’s encounters with high technology this principle is given a top priority 8:67, 38:40].

47:5 He will instantly guide them (straight to Paradise 47:6), and direct their hearts and minds unto rightful contentment.

47:6 And bring them into the Garden which He has made known to them.

47:7 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! If you help Allah, He will help you and will strengthen your foothold.

47:8 And trip and fall on their face all those who journey through life in the darkness of Ignorance. And the Divine Law causes their actions to be lost. (‘Ta’as’ = Trip and fall on the face).

47:9 This, because they detest what Allah has revealed, and so He renders all their actions fruitless.(13:17). (‘Habet’ = Undigested food that fails to provide nourishment).

47:10 Have they not, then, traveled in the land and seen what eventually happened to those who lived before them? Allah wiped them out, and for the deniers of Truth shall be the like thereof.

47:11 This, because Allah is the Patron of those who accept His Commands, whereas there is no patron for those who deny the Truth.

47:12 Verily, Allah will admit all those who accept His Message and fulfill the needs of others into Gardens beneath which rivers flow. But those who deny the Truth, may partake of life and eat like the cattle (live and) eat, and the Fire will be their abode. (Living without a Noble Ideology reduces human beings to a subhuman existence).

47:13 And how many a township mightier in power than this your township which has evicted you (O Prophet), have We annihilated! And (then) they had no helper.

47:14 Is, then, he who lives by an evident Truth from his Lord like the one to whom his disruptive behavior seems pleasing – while such people are but following their own desires?

47:15 In allegorical terms the Paradise that the righteous are promised is this: Therein are rivers of ever fresh water, and rivers of ever fresh milk, and rivers of delicious wine, and rivers of clear-run honey. Therein are all kinds of fruit (of their good deeds), with a life secure from deterioration bestowed upon them from their Lord. Are they like the ones who abide in the Fire and are given drinks of burning despair that tears their insides? ('Maghfirah' here denotes protection from deterioration).

[Note that the Paradise is described in allegorical terms since we can only understand some of it by way of similitude and metaphor at our current level of intellect and understanding. The wine therein is refreshing with no trace of beclouding of the mind or hangover 52:23, 56:19.]

47:16 (O Messenger) Among them are some who pretend to listen to you, and then, as soon as they leave your presence, they ask others who have received knowledge, “What was it it that he just said?” Such are the ones whose hearts Allah has sealed, for their minds are always contemplating ways to fulfill their desires. (4:155, 10:74, 16:106, 17:45, 47:24, 83:14).

47:17 While as for those who wish to walk in the Light, He shows them the way all along, and secures for them their journey through life. (‘Huda’ = Brightness, light, guidance, beacon, showing the way, lead the lost).

47:18 Are they, then, waiting for the Hour that may come upon them suddenly? And the signs of confrontation have already appeared. And when it comes to them, how shall their understanding (of the Truth) will help them?

47:19 So (O Prophet) remain consciously and incessantly aware that there is no ‘power’ but Allah, and protect yourselves against the rumors and slander that the enemy sticks after you, and the believing men, and the believing women. Devise means to counter whatever may cause your community to lag behind in their Mission. For, Allah knows (the meticulous ways) how you move about in your daily lives and what your blessed destination is. (‘Wastaghfir’ = Protect. Zanb = Tail = Rumors and slander that are stuck behind one’s back = Lagging behind like the tail lags behind an animal’s body).

47:20 Now those who have believed, say, “Why is not an injunction revealed (permitting us to fight in self-defense?)” But now when a decisive injunction has been revealed about fighting, you find the hypocrites looking at you as if they were fainting to death. And yet, the foremost good for them would be -

47:21 Obedience and a righteous word. For, once a matter has been determined, it would be best for them if they were true to Allah.

47:22 Would you then, rather turn back (to the old ways of Ignorance) and work corruption in the land, and break the common bond of humanity and your ties of mutual relationships?

47:23 Such are they whom Allah deprives of His Grace, and whom He makes deaf, and blinds their sight.

47:24 Will they not then reflect on the Qur’an, or is it that they have locks on their hearts (which bar them from reason 4:82)?

47:25 Behold, those who slide back after the Guidance has been made clear to them, do so because Satan has charmed them into utopia.

47:26 This, because they say to those who resent the Qur’an, “We will be with you in part of your plans.” And Allah fully knows their secret consultations.

47:27 Then how will it be when the angels gather them in death, smiting their faces and backs? (They leave the world in agony for not having readied themselves for the life to come).

47:28 This, because they followed that which brings Allah’s disapproval, and detested the actions that win His Approval. And so, He renders all their actions fruitless.

47:29 Or do the hypocrites think that Allah will not reveal their malice?

47:30 Had We so willed, We could have pointed them out to you and you would have identified them by their faces. But you will surely recognize them by the tone of their speech. And Allah knows all that you humans do.

47:31 And verily We shall try you all in order to distinguish the valiant among you and the steadfast. And We shall put your reputation to test.

47:32 Behold, those who deny the Truth and hinder the Path of Allah, and oppose the Messenger after guidance has been clearly conveyed to them, cannot harm Allah in the least. And He will make all their deeds fruitless.

47:33 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Obey Allah, and obey the Messenger, and render not your actions vain.

47:34 Verily, those who deny the Message and hinder the Path of Allah, and then die as disbelievers, Allah will not grant them the protection of forgiveness.

47:35 And so, be not weary and keep calling unto the abode of Peace and Security, for, you shall surely attain high ranks. And Allah is with you, and He will never put you in loss for your efforts.

47:36 The life of this world is but a sport and amusement. But if you believe and walk aright, He will give you your rewards, and will not ask you to give up your wealth.

47:37 If He were to demand and compel you for it, you would cling to in stinginess, and He would (thus) reveal your shortcomings.

47:38 Behold, you are those who are called upon to spend in the Cause of Allah. Yet, among you there are such who turn niggardly. Anyone who is miser is miser against his own ‘Self’. And Allah is the Rich, and you are the poor. And if you turn away, He will replace you with another nation, and they will not be like you.

**Surah 48 – Al-Fath – Victory**

[Author’s note] This is the 48th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 29 verses. The Surah derives its name from the fulfillment of Allah's Promise to His Messenger of a Signal Victory. And the Promise that the Final Word of Allah will assuredly prevail over all other systems of life on the Globe.

The pledge of allegiance to the Prophet during his lifetime meant allegiance to Allah, and after him the same will hold true about the Central Authority of the Divine System whenever established.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

48:1 Verily, (O Prophet) We have opened for you the gates of a Victory that everyone shall behold.

48:2 In this way Allah has guarded you against whatever could have caused you to lag behind in the past and in the future. And so, He perfects His Bliss upon you and takes you along a Straight Path. (24:55, 40:55, 47:19).

48:3 And thus Allah supports you with a Mighty Support.

48:4 He it is Who sends down peace of reassurance into the hearts of the believers to increase their faith unto the state of conviction. Unto Allah belong all the Forces of the heavens and the earth. And Allah is Knower, Wise. (9:26, 45:22, 53:31).

48:5 Thus He will admit the believing men and the believing women into Gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they shall abide. And He will absolve their faults and imperfections. And that is, with Allah, the Supreme Triumph. (11:115).

48:6 And He will punish the hypocrite men and the hypocrite women and the idolater men and idolater women who hold evil assumptions and plans against Allah. Around them is a circle of their disruptive deeds, and Allah's Disapproval is upon them and He deprives them of His Grace. For them He has readied Hell, and how miserable is that as a destination!

48:7 Unto Allah belong all Forces in the Highs and the Lows, and Allah is Almighty, Wise. (45:22).

48:8 Verily (O Prophet), We have sent you as a witness (to the Truth and to these people) and a herald of glad news and a Warner. (2:143).

48:9 So that you mankind may believe in Allah and His Messenger. Therefore, support the Messenger and honor him and do your best to establish the Glory of Allah from morning to evening. (33:41-42).

48:10 Behold, all who pledge allegiance to you (O Prophet), in fact pledge allegiance to Allah. The Hand of Allah is above their hands. Hence, whoever shatters his pledge, shatters his own 'Self'. And whoever keeps his pledge with Allah, to him He will grant a Supreme Reward. (9:111).

48:11 The Bedouins, who were left behind, will tell you, "Our properties and families kept us occupied, so ask forgiveness for us!" They will utter with their tongues what is not in their hearts. Say, "Who can avert from you Allah's Law of Requital, whether it is harm or benefit to you?" Nay, but Allah is Aware of all that you do.

48:12 Nay, you thought that the Messenger and the believers would never come back to their folk and families. And it was made pleasing in your hearts that you did think evil, for, you are a people devoid of virtue."

48:13 As for him who denies Allah and His Messenger - behold, We have prepared a Flame for rejecters of the Truth.

48:14 To Allah belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He forgives and punishes according to His Law of Requital. And Allah is Absolver of imperfections, Compassionate.

48:15 Those who had stayed behind will say - if you go forth to a battle that holds promise of a booty, "Allow us to follow you." They seek to change the Word of Allah. Say, "You shall by no means go with us. This is what Allah has decreed already." Then they will say, "You are envious of us." Nay, but very little it is that they understand (of selfless service). (The battle is no longer to be seen as a means of winning booty, it is allowed only for liberty and self-defense. That is the Word of Allah 8:1, 2:167, 2:193, 60:8-9).

48:16 Say to these desert Arabs who had stayed behind, "Soon you will be called against a people mighty in warfare, to fight them until they surrender. And if you obey, Allah will give you a beautiful reward. But if you turn away, as you did turn away before, He will punish you with a painful suffering."

48:17 There is no blame for the blind, nor is there blame for the disabled, nor is there blame for the sick. And whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger, He will admit him in the Gardens underneath which rivers flow. And whoever turns away, him will He punish with an awful doom. (9:91).

48:18 Indeed, Allah was pleased with the believers when they pledged allegiance unto you (O Messenger) under that shady tree. For, He knew what was in their hearts, and so He sent down upon them inner peace, and rewarded them by opening the gates to a quick Victory. (48:10).

48:19 And many gains will they achieve in addition, for, Allah is Almighty, Most Wise.

48:20 Allah promises you a great many gains that you shall acquire, and has given you these ones just to begin with. And He has restrained the aggressive hands of people from you, that it may be a Sign for the believers (of all times) and so that He may light up for you a Straight Path. ('Huda' and derivatives = Lead, guide, show the way, enlighten, light up the way, walk ahead, be a beacon).

48:21 And there are yet other gains which are beyond your power at this time, but Allah has already encompassed them for you. For, Allah has Power over all things.

48:22 Now, if the non-believers fight you, they will certainly turn their backs in flight, and then they will find no protecting friend nor helper.

48:23 This is the Law of Allah which has been in force since older times. And never will you find any change in Allah's Law. ('Sunnatillah' = Allah's Law in practice. 'Kalimatillah' = Allah's Word = Allah's Law in theory 3:139, 17:77, 33:38, 33:62, 35:43, 40:85, 48:23).

48:24 And He it is Who has withheld their hands against you, and your hands against them in the Valley of Makkah after He has given you victory over them. And Allah was indeed Watcher over all your actions.

48:25 These are the very people who denied the Message, and debarred you from the Sacred Masjid, and prevented your offerings from reaching their destination. Therein were believing men and believing women whom you did not know, and you could have harmed them. And on their account you could have carried guilt without knowing it. Thus Allah admits into His Grace whoever seeks it. Now if the rejecters persist in aggression, We shall indeed clearly separate them (from the believers) and punish them with an awful doom.

48:26 Just when the unbelievers had their hearts filled with zeal, the zeal of the Age of Ignorance, right then Allah sent down His blessing of inner contentment upon His Messenger and upon the believers, and empowered them to ward off this kind of zealotry. For, they truly deserved this virtue and it was befitting for them to own it. And Allah is Knower of all things.

48:27 Indeed, Allah has vindicated His Messenger's vision of Solidarity. You shall indeed enter the Sacred Masjid, Allah willing, perfectly secure, having unburdened your heads of all fear. And He knows what you know not, and He has granted you a quick Victory.

48:28 He it is Who has sent His Messenger with the Enlightenment and the Religion of Truth that He may cause it to prevail over all other systems of life. And Allah is Sufficient as Witness (to this Pronouncement 9:31-33, 14:48, 18:48, 48:28, 61:9).

48:29 Muhammad is Allah's Messenger. And those who are with him are stern towards the rejecters, but full of compassion towards one another. You see them bowing, adoring, as they seek Allah's Bounty and Acceptance. Their signs (of belief) are on their faces, the effects of adoration. Such is their likeness in the Torah and their likeness in the Gospel. Like a seed that brings forth its shoot, and then strengthens it, so that it grows thick, and then stands firm on its own stem, delighting those who have sown it. Consequently, it fills the rejecters with rage at them. But unto those who may yet attain belief and do works that help others, Allah promises forgiveness and Immense Reward.

['Athar-is-sujood' is frequently mistranslated as the physical mark on the forehead resulting from regular prostration. But 'Wajh' means face and not forehead. In addition, the verses of the Bible that the QUR'AN IS REFERRING TO, make no mention of any physical marks on the foreheads or faces.

'Sujud' = Adoration = Prostrations = Complete submission. 'Signs on their faces' = Reflection of Faith in the believer's mannerism. 'Face' = Countenance = One's whole being. Torah and Gospel: Numbers xvi. 22 - Mark iv. 27-28 - Matthew xiii. 3-9]

Surah 49 – Al-Hujurat – The Private Apartments

[Author's note] This is the 49th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 18 verses. The Surah primarily deals with social manners, respect of privacy and our behavior in general that leads to success in both lives. It includes a most revolutionary Injunction that it is only the character, and nothing else, that can make a human being superior to another.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

49:1 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be not forward in the presence of Allah and His Messenger, and be mindful of Allah. Verily, Allah is Hearer, Knower. (Desist from holding your opinions above that which Allah has revealed to His Messenger).

49:2 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Raise not your voices above the voice of the Prophet, nor shall you speak loudly to him, as you would speak loudly to one another, lest your works be rendered vain while you perceive not. (In my opinion, this verse applies today as well. We must be respectful whenever we speak of or even think of him).

49:3 Behold, they who lower their voices in the presence of the Messenger of Allah, - it is they whose hearts Allah has primed to become righteous. Theirs will be the protection of forgiveness and a Supreme Reward.

49:4 Verily, as for those who call out to you from outside the private apartments, most of them lack understanding.

49:5 For, if they only had patience until you came forth unto them, it would certainly be better for them. And Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

49:6 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! If a person, who is known to drift away from Moral Values, comes to you with any news, verify it, lest you hurt some folk in ignorance and then regret what you have done.

49:7 And be constantly aware that in your midst is Allah's Messenger. If he were to obey you in much of the governance, you will certainly be in chaos. But as it is, Allah has made belief dear to you and has beautified it in your hearts. And He has made disbelief, immoral conduct and disobedience detestable unto you. Such indeed are they who are rightly guided.

49:8 A Bounty and Bliss from Allah, and Allah is Knower, Wise.

49:9 And if two groups of believers fall into a fight, then make peace between them. But then, if one of the two wrongs the other, fight the one that wrongs until it reverts to Allah's Command (the decision that was made by the Central Authority). Once they revert, make peace between them with justice, and act equitably. Verily, Allah loves the equitable.

49:10 The believers are but a single Brotherhood. (They are members of one family, brothers and sisters unto one another). Hence, make peace between your brothers and be mindful of Allah so that you may attain Mercy.

49:11 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! No folk shall make mockery of other folk, for they may be better than they are. Nor shall any women ridicule other women, for they may be better than they are. And neither shall you defame one another, nor insult one another by nicknames. Bad is the immoral name after attaining faith. And whoever turns not, such are the wrongdoers.

49:12 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Avoid much suspicion and guesswork. For, behold, some of such suspicion and guesswork deplete your communal energy. And spy not upon one another, nor shall you backbite one another. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? Nay, you would detest it! Be mindful of Allah. Verily, Allah is Relenting, Merciful.

49:13 O Mankind! Behold, We have created you male and female, and have made you nations and tribes so that you might (affectionately) come to know one another. Verily, the most honored among you, in the Sight of Allah, is the one who lives most upright. Behold, Allah is Knower, Aware. ('Min zakarinwwa untha' = Of a kind that is male, and of a kind that is female = Male and female = Some of you are men and some of you are women. On this note I find myself in agreement with M. Pickthall).

49:14 The Bedouins say, "We have attained belief." Say (O Prophet), "You have not yet attained belief, but rather say, 'We have submitted (to the System)', for the faith has not yet entered your hearts. Yet, if you obey Allah and His Messenger, He will not diminish (the reward of) any of your works. Verily, Allah is Forgiving, Merciful."

49:15 The believers are only those who believe in Allah and His Messenger, and then, have left behind all doubt, and who strive with their belongings and their persons in the Cause of Allah. It is they, they who confirm their word with action.

49:16 Say, "Do you inform Allah of your religiousness when Allah knows all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth?" And Allah is Knower of all things.

49:17 Some people act as if they are doing you a favor by embracing Islam. Say, "Deem not that your Islam is a favor upon me. Nay, it is Allah Who bestows a favor upon you as He has led you to the Faith, if you be true and sincere."

49:18 Verily, Allah knows the Unseen of the heavens and the earth, and Allah is Seer of all that you do.

## Surah 50 – Qaf – Qaf

[Author’s note] This is the 50th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 45 verses. Along with other concepts, this Surah underscores that Allah is Omnipresent, He is not resting in the heavens, and He is closer to us than our lifeline, the Vena cava.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

50:1 Q. QAF. Qif! Stop and think! Qadir, the Omnipotent, presents this Glorious Qur’an as a witness to itself.

50:2 But, nay, they marvel that a Warner from among their own has come unto them! And so these deniers are saying, “This is a weird thing!

50:3 What! After we have died and become dust? Such a return is a thought far-fetched indeed!”

50:4 (But) We know what the earth takes of them. (It is only their physical body that becomes dust. Their “Self” lives on). And with Us is a Guarded Book (of Laws).

50:5 Nay, but they denied the Truth as soon as it came to them. And so, they are in a state of utter confusion.

50:6 Do they not look at the sky above them how We have built it and beautified it, and there are no flaws therein!

50:7 And the earth. We have spread it out, and scattered mountains firm on it, and caused it to bring forth plants on it of all beauteous kind. (This gives us a scenario of a huge ball with carpets spread out on it held in place with weights. And the mountains serve as great water reservoirs that help grow the vegetation 13:3, 15:19, 31:10, 39:5, 79:28-30, 88:20).

50:8 A Vision and an enlightening Reminder for every servant who wishes to turn (to Allah).

50:9 And We send down from the high atmosphere blessed water whereby We cause to grow colorful gardens and fields of grains.

50:10 And lofty palm-trees with their thickly clustered fruit.

50:11 A provision for My servants. And by all this We revive a dead land. Thus it is: (your) coming forth.

50:12 Before them denied the Message, the nation of Noah, the dwellers of the valley of Ar-Rass (25:38), and Thamud.

50:13 And ‘Ad, and Pharaoh, and the brothers of Lot.

50:14 And the dwellers in the wooded dales (of Midyan), and the nation of King Tubba'. All of them denied their Messengers, so My warning came to pass. (44:37).

[The Himairi Tribe had gained control of the Kingdom of Sheba in 115 B.C. and ruled until 300 C.E. Tubba' was the most prominent of their kings, and he was a Unitarian Christian like the vast majority of Christians before the Conference of Nicea in Rome in 325 C.E.]

50:15 Could, We, then, be worn out by the first creation? Nay, they are still (after such diverse examples,) lost in doubt about a new creation. (That He gives life and dispenses death to individuals and nations 46:33).

50:16 Now indeed, it is We Who have created man and We know the whispering that goes on within his mind (all the intricacies of his thought process), for, We are nearer to him than his Vena cava.

['Hablil warid' is usually translated as Jugular vein or neck-vein. But 'Habl' = Rope = Cable = A thing that binds = Guarantee = Indispensable = Binding pledge = Holding from disintegration = Holding together. 'Warid' = Vein. Hence, my rendering of 'Hablil warid' into Vena cava, the great veins, superior and inferior. They ultimately return the blood from the brain and the body to the heart. The use of 'vein' in this verse, instead of 'artery', seems to allude to the superiority of mind over body. What is being carried from the brain to the heart is through veins]

50:17 And so it may happen that two conflicting demands in his mind, sitting in opposite directions, pull him apart. (His reason, and his emotions 50:21).

50:18 Not even a word can he utter but there is an ever-vigilant watcher with him. (The Law of Requital makes a meticulous record).

50:19 And then, the twilight of death brings with it the inevitable truth. "This is the very thing you would rather evade."

50:20 (Then a long slumber) – And - the Trumpet is blown – This is the Day Promised.

50:21 And every person will come with his actions and their imprints.

50:22 Yes, indeed, you were oblivious to this. But now We have removed your veil and sharp is your vision this Day.

50:23 And his other part (the imprints) will say, "Here is the record ready with me."

50:24 It will be said, "Throw, throw into Hell every stubborn enemy of the Truth!"

50:25 "Every withholder of charity - given to extremes - fomenter of distrust between people."

50:26 "Whoever had set up another god along with Allah. Hurl, hurl him in the strong retribution."

50:27 Man's comrade (desire) will say, "Our Lord! I did not mislead him. He himself was far astray."

50:28 Thus will respond He, “Contend not in My Presence, for I had sent forth to you warning in advance.”

50:29 “The Word changes not with Me, and I am not at all unjust to My servants.”

50:30 On that Day We will ask Hell, “Are you filled?” And it will answer, “Is there yet more for me?”

50:31 And the Paradise will be brought close to those who walked aright, no longer distant.

50:32 This is what you were promised. It is for everyone who was turning to the Message and guarded it.

50:33 Everyone who feared violating the Laws of the Beneficent even in privacy and came with a heart that kept turning to Him.

50:34 Enter this Paradise in Peace! This is the Day of immortality.

50:35 There they have all they desire, and therein is yet more with Us.

50:36 (All this is the Law of Requital.) And how many a generation We annihilated before them, of greater might than theirs! But, then they wandered on the face of the earth asking, “Is there a place of refuge?”

50:37 Therein, behold, is a reminder for him who has a heart, that is, listens with a presence of mind. (50:21. ‘Aw’ = Or = That is = So that = As it is = And so).

50:38 And (who believes that) verily, We created the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them, in six stages, and weariness did not even touch Us.

50:39 Hence, bear with patience whatever they say, and keep doing your best from before the rising of the sun to after it sets, for establishing the Glory and Praise of your Lord.

50:40 And at night too, do your best, hence, all humanity will come to adore Him. (52:49, 73:20).

50:41 And the day is coming when a caller will call from close-by. (The enemy will approach you for war).

50:42 The day on which they will hear the real battle-cry. That is the day of coming forth (along with your companions, O Prophet).

50:43 Verily, it is We Who grant life and dispense death, and unto us is the destination. (8:42).

50:44 On that day, the earth will split asunder before them (they shall fail to advance). This assembling of the forces is easy for Us.

50:45 We know full well whatever they say, and you are, by no means, a compeller over them. Nevertheless, remind with this Qur’an, any who would fear My warning!

**Surah 51 – Az-Zariyat – Those Who Spread the Divine Word**

[Author's note] This is the 51st Surah of the Qur'an. It has 60 verses. At no point do we find the Book of Allah demanding blind faith. Those who wish to attain conviction in the Truth, for them are Signs in the earth and within their own persons. Mankind has been created to live by the Creator's Law, for their own good. In so doing, they would make the best use of the gift of life since it affords them the chance to achieve immortality and Eternal Bliss.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

51:1 Consider those who scatter broadcast. (Individuals and communities that spread the Divine Word.)

51:2 And those who carry a great burden of responsibility.

51:3 And those who glide gently (toward success).

51:4 And those who share the Command.

51:5 Behold, what you are promised will come to pass. (The Qur'an will prevail 9:33).

51:6 And verily, the Divine System will be established.

51:7 Witness is the sky with starry orbits.

51:8 Behold, it is you humans who deviate from your course.

51:9 Wanders in the wilderness of thought he who wills to wander.

51:10 Belittle themselves those who live by guesswork.

51:11 They know not that they know not.

51:12 They ask mockingly, "When is the Day of Judgment coming?"

51:13 It is the Day when they are tried at the Fire.

51:14 Taste the trial that you brought upon yourselves. This is what you asked to hasten.

51:15 Behold, in the midst of Gardens and springs are those who walked aright.

51:16 Enjoying all that their Lord grants them, for, behold, aforetime they used to benefit others.

51:17 And rarely did they fall asleep at night without reflection. ('Haju' = Fall asleep instantly like an exhausted horse).

51:18 And heartily sought to be guarded against their imperfections. ('Sahr' = Morning = Core of the heart (Lisanal Arab). 'Ghafarah' = Helmet = Guarding).

51:19 And in their wealth was the Divine Right of the requester and the deprived (6:142).

51:20 And in the earth are signs for those who wish to attain conviction. (And its resources must remain open for all 15:20, 41:10, 55:11-12).

51:21 And also in yourselves, your individual psyche and soma, your folk and the unity in diversity among your human communities. Can you not then use your inner vision? ('Anfusikum' entails all the meanings rendered here).

51:22 And in the heaven is all your providence and all that you are promised. (It is the Divine Laws that bestow upon you your physical and mental needs and promise you the just recompense of your actions).

51:23 And by the Lord of the heavens and the earth, all that which is being said is as Real as you consider your speaking to one another real.

51:24 And (as a historical evidence) has the story of Abraham's honored guests reached you?

51:25 When they visited him greeting him with "Peace!" He answered, "Peace to you strangers!"

51:26 Then he went quietly to his household, and brought forth a well-bred roasted calf.

51:27 And placed it before them, saying, "Will you not eat?"

51:28 Then he felt apprehensive of them. They said, "Fear not!" And gave him the glad news of a son who would be endowed with knowledge. (Abraham was concerned, since people with aggressive designs used to refuse hospitality. But they were hurrying to Sodom 11:69-76, 15:50-55, 26:69, 29:31).

51:29 Then his wife came forward with a loud cry and struck her face in astonishment and said, "An old barren woman!"

51:30 They said, "Thus it is. Your Lord has so decreed. Behold, He, He alone is all-Wise, all-Knowing."

51:31 Abraham said, "And now what is your task, O Messengers!"

51:32 They replied, "Behold, We have been sent to a guilty folk who violate human rights.

51:33 That we may herald upon them a shower of hardened stones.

51:34 Marked out by your Lord for those who have wasted their own 'Self'."

51:35 We then brought forth safe all believers that were in town.

51:36 But We found therein none but one Muslim household!

51:37 And so We left therein a Sign for those who fear a painful consequence (of their actions).

51:38 And in Moses too! Behold, We sent him to Pharaoh with a clear authority.

51:39 But he turned away in the pride of his might and said, “A wizard or a madman!”

51:40 So We seized him and his troops, and flung them in the sea, and he was blameworthy.

51:41 And in Aad! When We sent upon them the devastating wind.

51:42 It spared nothing that it blew on and smashed it to dust.

51:43 And in Thamud! Behold, they were told, “Enjoy life for a little while.”

51:44 But they defied their Lord’s Commandment. Whereupon the thunder seized them while they looked on.

51:45 And they were unable even to rise up and could not help themselves a bit.

51:46 And the people of Noah aforetime! Behold, they were a folk who drifted away from the Truth.

51:47 And it is We Who have built the Universe, and behold, We are steadily expanding it.

51:48 And We have spread out the earth, and how excellent a Spreader We are!

51:49 And all things We created in pairs and in opposites (such that one complements the other. This system) has cause for you to reflect.

51:50 (Say), “Hence, Rush unto Allah! Behold, I am a plain Warner unto you from Him." (To emphasize the urgency to do good in this unpredictable human life, the word 'say' in this verse is merged within 'Fafirru' = So, flee = Therefore, rush = Hence, go forth now).

51:51 And set up no god or Authority along with Allah. Behold, I am a plain Warner unto you from Him.

51:52 But, thus it is. No Messenger came to those before their time, but they said, “A wizard or a madman!”

51:53 Have they handed down this (behavior) as a last will from one to another? Nay, but they have been folk who wished to live without moral bounds.

51:54 Turn, then, away from them, and you shall not be blameworthy.

51:55 Yet continue reminding, for, verily, the believers will benefit from it and gain eminence.

51:56 And I have not created the nomads or the urban but to consciously and willingly live by My Laws. (‘Ibadah’, usually translated, as worship is better applicable in that sense to idol-worship. And since the Qur’an consistently promotes action over ritual, ‘Ibadah’ of Allah is better understood as serving Him by serving His creation. That is in conformity with my rendering, ‘consciously and willingly live by --’).

51:57 No sustenance do I ever require of them, nor do I ask that they feed Me.

51:58 Verily, Allah! He it is Who is the Provider, the Lord of Might, Invincible.

51:59 And behold, the violators of human rights trail behind in humanity as their comrades did in the past. So they should not ask Me to hasten their full recompense.

51:60 Then, anguish awaits the deniers of the Truth – anguish from that Day of theirs which they have been promised.

**Surah 52 – At-Tur – Mount Sinai**

[Author’s note] This is the 52nd Surah of the Qur'an and it has 49 verses. Allah watched very closely the person, the character, the actions and the Mission of the exalted Messenger. This Surah is a great example of TASREEF, how beautifully the Qur’an displays its Uniform Message, repeating its verses from different vantage points and in diverse facets, filling our sight and mind with décor rather than a colorless monotony.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

52:1 Mount Sinai stands witness. (That this Qur'an is a Divine Writ as was the Scripture of Law bestowed upon Moses).

52:2 And a well-scored Book it is.

52:3 Written on fine parchment, unrolled, open for everyone to read, widely published.

[‘Raqq’ = Deer skin = Parchment. Right here is the unequivocal negation of many accounts of fabricated Hadith that the Qur’an was written on bones, date-leaves, stones etc. ‘Manshur’ = Unfolded, unrolled, available to be seen and read, open to understanding, widely distributed]

52:4 And the Blessed House that is frequently visited (the Ka’bah) stands witness.

52:5 By the exalted canopy (of the sky, this Book is Exalted).

52:6 And by the ocean bustling with ships and lights.

52:7 Behold, the retribution of your Lord is now inevitable.

52:8 There is none who can repel it.

52:9 On the day when the high elite will be shaken, and shaken well. ('Sama' = Sky, heaven, height, top and elite).

52:10 And the strong leaders will be moved with a movement. ('Jibal' = Mountains, of firm standing, strong leaders, high and powerful, dominating).

52:11 Ultimately, then, is destruction on that Day for all who belie the Truth.

52:12 Who peddle the play of shallow rituals.

52:13 The Day when they are thrust into the fire of Hell with a mighty thrust.

52:14 This is the Fire that you used to belie.

52:15 Is it, and was it, then, magic – or is it that you never used your Vision?

52:16 Endure the heat herein. It is the same whether you bear it patiently or impatiently. This is only the built-in Requital of what you used to do.

52:17 Verily, those who lived upright, dwell in Gardens and in Bliss.

52:18 Delighted in what their Lord has bestowed upon them. And their Lord has guarded them against the torment of the blazing Fire.

52:19 Enjoy life, eat and drink happily for what you used to do.

52:20 Relaxing on couches with beautiful interior decoration. And We will match them with neat companions, most beautiful of Vision.

52:21 And they who attained belief, and whose children followed them in belief, We shall unite them with their children, and We shall not let any of their deeds go waste. Yet (as a rule) each person is held as a collateral against what he has earned. (The condition of every person will depend on his actions 74:38).

52:22 And We shall bestow on them the fruits and the delicacies of their choice..

52:23 And therein they pass from hand to hand cups of delicious drinks that cause no idle talk nor a hangover. (‘Ithm’ = Pull down, drag down, hangover, harming personality, reducing human dignity or potential).

52:24 And their children like pearls, playful, happy around them. (13:23, 52:21, 59:17).

52:25 They will socialize and reminisce among themselves (recalling how they lived the previous life).

52:26 They will say, "Behold, We were kind and humble amidst our families.”

52:27 So Allah has graced us and guarded us against the suffering of scorching winds of requital.

52:28 Verily, We used to call unto Him (seeking guidance from His Word alone). Behold, He is all Kind, all Merciful."

52:29 Hence, (O Messenger) keep reminding, for, by the Grace of your Lord, you are neither a soothsayer nor a madman.

52:30 What! Do they say, "A poet? Let us wait how time handles him!"

52:31 Say to them, "Hope for what you hope for! Behold, I shall wait with you expecting what I expect."

52:32 Do they behave like this because they would rather dream their lives through? Is this behavior really commanded by their intellect? Or is it that they are a people who wish to live without any moral bounds?

52:33 Or do they say, "He himself has composed it?" Nay, they simply do not wish to believe. (The Message hits at their vested interests. Hence, so many contradictory blames).

52:34 Then let them produce a Hadith like this if they are truthful. (2:23, 10:38, 11:13, 17:88).

52:35 Are they a product of spontaneous generation? Or were they their own creators?

52:36 Or did they create the heavens and the earth? Nay, but they have certainty about nothing.

52:37 Do they possess the treasures of your Lord? Or are they in charge?

52:38 Or do they have a stairway of knowledge to ascend to the Glorious Heights of Divine Revelation and listen directly to and come at par with it? Let, then, whoever has received a direct Revelation bring his proof.

[Can these mystics produce a proof? A mystic, or any person (except the select Messengers of Allah) who claims to communicate with God, is either deceiving others or is himself deceived by his ego]

52:39 (Such is their ignorance, yet their claims) What! He has daughters, whereas you would rather have only sons?

52:40 Or is it that you (O Prophet) ask a reward from them and thereby they are burdened with debt?

52:41 Or do they know the future so that they have it written down?

52:42 Or do they intend a plot? But it is the deniers who are in fact entrapped. (In their spider web of falsehood).

52:43 Or have they a god other than Allah? Glorified is Allah far above what they associate with Him.

52:44 Even if they were to see a fragment from the Height falling, they would say, "A dense cloud!" (Their lack of reasoning makes them oblivious to the Law of Requital 26:187).

52:45 Hence, leave them alone until they meet that Day of theirs wherein they shall be thunderstruck.

52:46 - The Day when none of their scheming will avail them, nor will they be helped.

52:47 And verily, for oppressors, violators of human rights and those who relegate the Truth, there is a punishment beyond that. But most of them know not. (Their wrongdoing hurts their own "Self").

52:48 And so, (O Messenger) work patiently to establish the Rule of your Lord, for, behold, you are in Our eyes. Begin your day with a firm resolve and work to manifest the Praise of your Lord.

52:49 And even in the night-time do your best to manifest your Lord's Praise, and at the setting of the stars.

**Surah 53 – An-Najm – The Star**

[Author's note] This is the 53rd Surah of the Qur'an. It has 62 verses. We find the Qur'an at the heights of eloquence here. Very brief yet expressive verses abound herein. It is one of the most challenging Surahs to render into any language. Another fact of great import is the misinterpretation it has gone through over the centuries. In short, translators and exponents in general and especially in this instance, have been influenced by Hadith and the Bible confining God to a Throne in the heavens, after conceiving of Him as a physical being. According to the Qur'an, Allah is Omnipresent, He is closer to us than our Vena cava and He is the Light of the Heavens and the Earth.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

53:1 Witness are the Stars that set along a course appointed. (They never misguide you. He Who commands them, commands the Messenger 6:98, 56:75. 'Wa' = And = Consider = Witness = For = By. 'Najm' is singular as well as plural in the form of a galaxy).

53:2 Your honored companion is neither in error, nor is he misled.

53:3 Nor does he utter the Word out of his desire.

53:4 This (Qur'an) is but a Revelation that is being revealed to him.

53:5 He has been taught by the One Mighty in Powers.

53:6 The Owner of Authority and Wisdom established him -

53:7 At the highest horizon, (81:23)

53:8 Of human wisdom and knowledge as he drew near and approached (the point where the human intellect comes to a halt).

53:9 Till he was but two bow-lengths away, or even closer. (The Divine Will and the will of the Messenger merged together, like the two of you join your bows as a bond of friendship 8:17).

53:10 And thus He revealed to His servant what He revealed.

53:11 And never did he found contrary to reason what he learned. (2:285, 6:164. 'Raa' = Saw, learned, observed, took to heart).

53:12 Will you, then, contend with him concerning what he learned (and you have not)?

53:13 And indeed, he learned it again and yet again.

53:14 At the Ultimate Mark ('Sidratil muntaha' = The last Lote-tree = The point where the human intellect is left with nothing but astonishment!)

53:15 Near unto the Garden of Abode. (The Revelation tells the Messenger how to establish a paradise on earth).

53:16 Overwhelming is the spectacle at the overwhelming Ultimate Mark!

53:17 Yet, his sight wavered not and wandered not.

53:18 And indeed, he has seen the great Signs of his Lord. (The shackles of mental and physical bondage will be broken and humanity will come from darkness to Light 7:157, 17:1, 20:23-24).

53:19 Have you seen and thought about Lat, and Uzza,

53:20 And Manat, the third other? (All three goddesses of yours).

53:21 Why - for yourselves you would prefer only sons, whereas to Him you assign daughters!

53:22 Behold, this indeed is an unfair division. (You worship female idols and resent having daughters).

53:23 They are but names that you have named, you and your fathers, for which Allah has sent down no authority. They follow nothing but conjecture and their own fancies. But now the Guidance from their Lord has come to them. (7:71-72).

53:24 Nay, should man get all that he covets and fancies?

53:25 Even though unto Allah belong the later life and the former. (His are the Keys of the heavens and the earth 7:96, 28:77, 39:63, 41:10, 42:12).

53:26 And how many forces are in the Universe whose company avails not except whom Allah permits. This is so, because he works by His Laws and thus obtains His Approval. (Science can only be mastered by understanding the physical laws in Nature).

['Malaikah' = Angels = Physical laws and forces in the Universe. 'Shifa'ah' = Company = Intercession = Stand with = Stand up in court as a witness = Recommend]

53:27 Behold, it is only those who do not believe in the life to come that consider the angels as female beings.

[Even many Muslims, under the influence of fabricated Hadith, think of angels as beautiful physical beings flying on wings here and there. Moreover they imagine that these beings pray for them, prompt them to do good as opposed to 'Satan' (the selfish desire) and that they will intercede on their behalf. Such people have practically denied the Hereafter since man's outcome, in fact, is directly and causally related to his actions].

53:28 And since they do not learn the Law of Cause and Effect, they can follow nothing but guesswork. And behold, guesswork can never take the place of Truth. (6:149).

53:29 Therefore, avoid him who turns away from Our Reminder and cares for no more than (the dogmas prevalent in) the life at hand.

53:30 Such is the sum-total of their knowledge. Behold, your Lord knows best who strays from His Way, and He best knows who goes right.

53:31 And unto Allah belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. (He has designed the Universe such that no action goes without a consequence). That He may requite those who destabilized lives, with their own deeds, and reward with goodness those who benefited the community. (11:7, 45:22).

53:32 Those who abstain from the greater transgressions that deplete the communal energy, and from shameful deeds and stinginess, even though they may sometimes waver, behold, your Lord is Immense in absolving their imperfections. He knows you best since He brings you into being from the earth, and when you were still hidden in the bellies of your mothers? Therefore, claim not piety for yourselves. He knows best as to who walks aright.

[4:31, 7:202, 42:37, 91:7-10, 92:17-18 'Ithm' = Actions that deplete individual or communal energy. 'Fawahish' = Shameful deeds = Lewdness = Unbecoming behavior = Immorality = Stinginess to the extent of shame]

53:33 Have you, then, noticed him who turns away,

53:34 And gives so little of himself, yet with a heavy heart?

53:35 What! Does he have the knowledge of the innermost psyche that he sees unfolded before him?

53:36 Nay, did he never hear of what was in the Scrolls of Moses?

53:37 And of Abraham who fulfilled his obligations.

[The Divine Message has essentially been the same. Herein are mentioned some of those Laws, twelve maxims of intense beauty.]

53:38 -i That no laden one shall bear the load of another.

53:39 -ii And that every human being shall be responsible for, and compensated for, his labor.

53:40 -iii And that his effort (and not the outcome) will be seen.

53:41 -iv And then he will be given the full wage.

53:42 -v And that to your Lord is the final destination. (Your goal shall be the Lord's Rule on earth).

53:43 -vi And that He it is Who makes laugh, and makes weep. (Nations that establish His Rule will have inner happiness, whereas the others will be in misery).

53:44 -vii And that He it is Who gives death and gives life. (The rise and fall of nations follow His Laws).

53:45 -viii And that He it is Who creates the two companions, the male and the female (pairs and opposites among His creation).

53:46 From gametes that unite.

53:47 –ix And that He has promised to bring about a second life (the ultimate accountability).

53:48 –x And that He it is Who gives wealth and contentment. (Only His Laws can bestow true prosperity).

53:49 –xi And that He it is Who is the Lord of the brightest star, the human intellect.

['Shi'ra' = 'Sha'ur' = Intellect. 'Shi'ra' is also the Arabic name of the brightest star Sirius in the constellation Canis Major. It was widely worshiped in ancient Middle East.]

53:50 –xii And that He it is Who annihilated the former tribe of Aad. (They were men of intellect but refused to establish the Divine System 7:65. A wrong system, however smartly run, is bound to collapse).

53:51 And the tribe of Thamud, sparing no one. (7:73).

53:52 And the people of Noah before them. Behold, they were even more unjust and more rebellious.

53:53 And His Law of Requital annihilated the cities such that they were overthrown.

53:54 So that there covered each of them what covered them. (Sodom and Gomorrah buried under the Dead Sea. Also applies to other townships covered with Doom.)

53:55 Then, which facet of your Lord's Power will you doubt or deny?

53:56 This is a Warner like the previous Warners.

53:57 The Inevitable is now imminent. (The opponents of the Divine System will soon be subdued.)

53:58 None but Allah can dispel it. (Stop attacking the System.)

53:59 Do you, then, marvel at this statement?

53:60 And will you laugh and not weep?

53:61 Just amusing yourselves!

53:62 Nay, rather prostrate yourselves before Allah and serve Him.

**Surah 54 – Al-Qamar – The Full Moon**

[Author's note] This is the 54th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 55 verses. Historically, the strong opponents of the Prophet, the Quraish Tribe of Makkah, had full moon on their banner as the logo. This Surah predicts their defeat at the hands of a few ill-equipped believers, while recapping some history as a forewarning. Allah reiterates that He is always with His Messengers as they are with Him. Unjust system in any society heralds its demise.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

54:1 The Hour of Revolution is fast approaching. And the moon bearing banner is torn asunder. [The use of the past tense here and at many other points in the Qur'an reflects the certainty of things to happen.]

['As-Sa'ah' = The Hour = The Last Hour = The Revolution = The decisive moment = Resurrection. 'Shaqqal Qamar' is usually given the literal translation = The moon is split. Then there are fabricated Ahadith which go on to say that the exalted Prophet split the moon into two halves pointing a finger at it! Additional reports want us to believe that one half of the moon then came down, entered the collar of the Prophet and exited through his sleeve. Not only all this is contrary to the Qur'an and to reason, the whole story defeats its own validity. It fails to name a single person who was awestruck by this 'miracle' and embraced the Message as a result.

The Qur'an is a Book consistent with itself and vehemently rejects any notions contrary to reason and to the changeless Universal Laws. Moreover, attainment of belief is a matter of choice. Allah does not will to compel or coerce anyone into believing. Stunning the human intellect by means of 'miracles' would counter this Divine Law]

54:2 But if they see a Sign of the oncoming Change, they turn away and say, “A persistent bewilderment.” (46:11).

54:3 For they adamantly belie the Truth and follow their desires. Yet, everything moves to its destination in stages.

54:4 And indeed, there has come unto them news sufficient to deter them from arrogance.

54:5 And profound Wisdom! But all the warnings have been of no avail.

54:6 Therefore, (O Messenger) Ignore them for a while. The Day is coming when the caller will call them to a thing they have not conceived. (Shackles of captivity following the battle when they come to attack the believers.)

54:7 They will come forth from their places of rest like a swarm of locusts, but will be thoroughly dispersed with their eyes downcast.

54:8 Running in bewilderment toward the caller, the same deniers will then exclaim, “This is an awful day!”

54:9 Long before them, Noah’s people had belied the Message, and belied Our servant and said, “Madman”, and he was rebuked. (11:25-48).

54:10 Thereupon he cried unto his Lord, “I am suppressed. Do help me, then.”

54:11 And so, We opened the gates of the heaven pouring down torrents of water.

54:12 And caused the earth to gush forth springs so that the waters met together in due measure as decreed.

54:13 And We carried him on a watercraft made of mere planks and nails.

54:14 And it floated before Our eyes, a reward for him who had been denied with ingratitude.

54:15 And verily, We left this event as a lesson. Then, is there any who will learn?

54:16 Then see how was My Requital after My warnings!

54:17 And indeed, We have made the Qur’an easy to understand. Then, is there any who will learn?

54:18 The tribe of Aad had also belied the Message. Then see how was My retribution after My warnings! (7:65)

54:19 Behold, We sent raging winds upon them on a day of relentless misery. (69:6-8).

54:20 Tossing people around like empty, uprooted palm-trunks.

54:21 Then see how was My retribution after My warnings!

54:22 And indeed, We have made the Qur’an easy to understand. Then, is there any who will learn?

54:23 Thamud also rejected the warnings. (Thamud and Saleh 7:73-79, 11:61-68, 26:141:158).

54:24 And they said, “What! A human being! Shall we follow a man among us while he has no party with him? Behold, we then, shall fall into error and loss.

54:25 Why - Has the Message been given to him alone among us? Nay, but he is a flagrant liar.”

54:26 Ah! They will come to know on the morrow who the flagrant liar is.

54:27 Behold, We are sending the she-camel as a test for them. So watch them (O Saleh) and hold yourself in patience.

54:28 And let them know that the water must be shared by all. Every drinking will be witnessed. (The she-camel was a symbol of obedience for them.)

54:29 But they called their (most forward) comrade and he took charge and killed her.

54:30 Then see how was My retribution after My warnings!

54:31 Behold, We sent upon them a single mighty Blast whereupon they crumbled to chaff.

54:32 And indeed, We have made the Qur'an easy to understand. Then, is there any who will learn?

54:33 Lot's folk rejected warnings. (11:69-83).

54:34 Behold, We sent a storm of fiery stones on them, except the family of Lot whom We saved at dawn. (51:32-34).

54:35 As a Bliss from Us. Thus it is, We reward the grateful.

54:36 For he had truly warned them of Our Grasp, but they contended about the warning.

54:37 And demanded that he give up his guests. Whereupon We sealed their vision. Taste now My punishment after the warnings.

54:38 And indeed, the inevitable punishment befell them early in the morning.

54:39 Now taste My retribution after My warnings.

54:40 And behold, We have made the Qur'an easy to understand. Then, is there any who will learn?

54:41 And warnings came indeed to Pharaoh's people.

54:42 They, too, denied Our Messages, every one. Thereupon We grasped them with the grasp of the Mighty, the Powerful.

54:43 Are your deniers better than those others, or do you have some amnesty in the Scriptures?

54:44 Or do they say, "We are a group united bound to be victorious?"

54:45 Yet, all these troops will be routed and will turn back and flee.

54:46 Nay, the Hour is the time promised them, and that Hour will be most grievous with a most bitter defeat.

54:47 The violators of human rights are in grave error and loss.

54:48 On the Day when they shall be dragged through the Fire on their faces, “Taste you the touch of Blaze!” (‘Wajh’ = Face = Countenance = Whole being = Total personality.)

54:49 Behold, We have created all things in due measure and proportion. (And appointed Laws so that all things become what they are meant to be.)

54:50 And Our Command is but a single Word, like the twinkling of an eye.

54:51 And often in the past We have annihilated gangs like you. Then, is there any who will learn?

54:52 And everything they did is in the Scriptures.

54:53 And everything, be it small or great, is recorded.

54:54 Behold, those who walk aright will be in the midst of gardens and rivers.

54:55 Seated honorably in the Presence of a Mighty King.

**Surah 55 – Ar-Rahman – The Beneficent**

[Author’s note] This is the 55th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 78 brief, flowing and beautiful verses. Sublime Arabic eloquence!

Very diverse concepts in this Surah are repeatedly punctuated by a verse that has often been mistranslated. The addressee of that verse is ‘you both’. So, many commentators render it as, “O Jinns and men!” – whereas, keeping in mind the Big Picture of the Qur’an, the correct rendition is, "O Men and women!" Another frequent error is translating ‘Aala’ as blessing, bounty or favor. As the reader will soon notice, that meaning falls completely and repeatedly out of line, out of the flow of meaning. The other meaning of ‘Aala’ is ‘Qudrah’ or Authority, Power and Control, and that is what goes consistent throughout the verses in the Surah.

Hence, the correct rendition of the verse will be: Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny? (Instead of: Then, O Jinns and men! Which bounty of your Lord will you deny?) The point will become more clear as we proceed.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

55:1 Ar-Rahman, the Beneficent, the Instant Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

55:2 He it is Who has made known and taught the Qur'an.

55:3 He has created the human being. (And taken care of his mental and physical needs).

55:4 He has distinguished him with the ability to clearly express his feelings and thoughts .

[‘Bayan’ = Distinction = Distinct = Plain = Clear expression of feelings and thoughts by signs, speech or writing 2:256, 3:137, 16:89, 75:19. ‘Bayan’ is obviously more versatile than ‘Nutq’ =

Expression in human speech or signs 21:63, 27:16, 41:21, 45:29. ‘Saut’ = Voice; human, animal or inanimate 17:64, 31:19, 49:2]

55:5 The sun and the moon run by a mathematical design. (Such are the changeless Laws given in this Book).

55:6 The stars and the trees all adore Him (and follow His Laws).

55:7 And the sky has He raised high and has kept perfect balance in the Universe.

55:8 So that you, too, never violate balance in your lives.

55:9 Therefore, establish Balance in the society in absolute justice. And never belittle the Scale of Justice in the community and in all your transactions with your own ‘Self’ and with others.

55:10 And (know that) the earth He has spread out for all His creatures. ('Anam' = All living beings).

55:11 Wherein are fruit and palms with clusters protected in sheaths.

55:12 And grain, corn, leaves, stalks, colorful herbs, vegetables, spices, sweet-smelling plants and fragrant flowers. (The three Arabic terms used in this verse include all the meanings rendered).

55:13 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:14 He created the human out of inorganic matter that sounded like an empty pot. (And it was empty of a trace of the finished form).

55:15 And the Jinns (nomads) He has created from a confused flame of fire (with a confused fiery disposition).

[Jinns: 2:102,6:76, 6:100, 6:112, 6:128 -130, 7:12, 7:38, 8:27, 11:119, 15:17, 15:27, 21:82, 32:13, 34:12-14, 37:158, 38:76, 46:29-32, 72:1-15, 75:2-6, 114:6.

‘Jinn’ pertains to something hidden, rarely seen, hence, after using TASREEF, Al-Jinn = The nomads. ‘Jannah’ from the same root word means a garden hidden in foliage. When the ‘Jinns’ or the nomads move to dwell in towns and become civilized, they are referred to as ‘Ins’ = Urbanites. Among the verses referred to above, Jinn, at times, denotes the hidden evil prompting that goes on in the human mind. In the sense of flashes of evil prompting, Jinn can be understood as Satan in minor forms. Satan = Selfish or rebellious desire works in concert with evil emotions which have been described as being fiery in the JAHILIYAH poetry. 'Emotions being fiery' stands up to reason.

Verse 21:37 convincingly shows what the ‘creation of jinn out of fire’ actually means. Using exactly the same terms ‘khuliq’ and ‘min’ it states “KHULIQAL insanu MIN ‘ajal”. Literally that would translate as: He created man out of haste. Whereas the clear understanding is: Man has been created with a tendency to be hasty and looking for instant gains or results.

Such is the case with “KHULAQAL jaanna MIN marijin MIN naar”. He created the nomads with a fiery disposition.]

55:16 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:17 Lord of the two Easts and the two Wests. (The East and the West of summer, and the East and the West of winter).

55:18 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:19 He has let free the two seas. They meet. (25:53).

55:20 Yet, there is a Barrier between them that they cannot exceed. (The great bodies of salt water and fresh water).

[In addition to the physical observation in numerous parts of the world where the two waters meet and yet, do not mix, let us recall 18:60-70.

The meeting of the two seas and yet, not meeting, may allude to a marvelous phenomenon: The waves of human intellect meet with the Ocean of Divine Revelation only in case of Prophets. Hence, for them they meet and for the rest they never meet!].

55:21 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:22 From both of them come forth pearl and coral.

55:23 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:24 And His are the bannered ships sailing through the sea lofty like mountains. (All creativity and invention of human beings issues forth from His gifts of mind and body. So all man-made things belong to Him).

55:25 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:26 All things thereon (in the Universe) are ever changing. (‘Fani’ = Ever-changing = Mortal).

55:27 But forever is Changeless the ‘Self’ of your Lord, the Lord of Majesty and Honor. ('Baqi' = Remaining = Eternal = Survivor = Remainder = Changeless. 'Wajh' = Face = Countenance = Self = Whole being = Personality 28:88).

55:28 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:29 All creatures in the heavens and the earth seek their needs from Him. And every day is He in a Marvelous Splendor.

55:30 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:31 Soon shall We lighten your burdens, O Burdened men and women!

[‘Thaql’ = ‘Ghalal’ = Load, weight, burden = Shackles. 'Lighten' is built-in in the context along with TASREEF. Through His Message revealed to His Messenger, Allah will break all shackles men and women are carrying 7:157]

55:32 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:33 O Communities of the rural and the urban! If you can break through the ‘fences’ of the heavens and the earth, then break through. Never can you break through without an Authority. Can you bring an evidence?

[‘Sultan’ = Evidence = Proof = Authority = Power 4:153, 14:11, 15:42, 17:80, 37:156, 69:29. Using TASREEF the simple understanding is this: You can only continue your evolution beyond the temporal and spatial bounds you now see, if you have primed your “Self” for immortality, instead of mere survival]

55:34 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:35 A blaze will be unleashed upon you - and thick smoke - and you will not be able to defend yourselves. (If you think that you can escape Divine Laws, you will never find your way in the thick smoke of conjecture).

55:36 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:37 And when the high elite will disperse and adapt to a surprising change.

55:38 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:39 In that Era neither the urban nor the rural will be asked why they trailed behind.

55:40 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:41 The violators of human rights will be clearly identified, firmly seized and held accountable. (‘Mujrim’ = Guilty = One who steals the fruit of others’ labor = Violator of human rights).

55:42 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:43 This is Hell which the guilty deny.

55:44 They wander between it and their smoldering anguish.

55:45 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:46 And for him who stands in fear of his Lord’s Presence, are two Paradises - one here one there.

55:47 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:48 Abounding in two facets, art and science. (‘Afnan’ = Creative works, art and science).

55:49 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:50 Wherein flow two springs, creativity and aesthetics.

55:51 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:52 Wherein is two kinds of fruit, of their own labor and of the added Reward. (50:35).

55:53 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:54 Reclining on luxurious carpets lined with rich brocade, the fruit of both Gardens at hand.

55:55 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:56 Therein women have a modest gaze, never touched by human vices or evil prompting.

[37:48, 38:52, 44:54, 52:20, 55:72, 56:22. For 'Jinn' = 'Jann' = Evil prompting. (55:15). 'Ins' = Human, is often incorrectly translated here into 'man'. The mistranslation then goes on to state that there are women whom no Jinn or man has ever touched. What will, then, become of the ‘poor’ wonderful wives?! And are women really 'touched' by Jinns? Women (and men) who qualify for Paradise, all their faults have been remitted and absolved, hence, untouched]

55:57 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:58 Like unto rubies and pearls.

55:59 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:60 Is the reward of goodness anything but goodness? (10:26, 16:30, 76:9).

55:61 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:62 And other than these two, shall be two more Gardens. (The human ‘Self’ and the new Universe will keep evolving 69:17)).

55:63 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:64 Both ever-fresh, lush green, pleasing.

55:65 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:66 Therein are two springs gushing forth. (Personal delight and shared joy 52:25).

55:67 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:68 Therein is fruit, and palms and pomegranate. (Fruit within the fruit of Reward).

55:69 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:70 Therein are all things most excellent, symmetrical, beautiful.

(‘Khair’ = Good thing = Excellent. ‘Hisan’ = Nicely balanced = Beautifully symmetrical = Symmetrically beautiful).

55:71 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:72 Modest, intelligent companions in blessed shades.

[‘Hur’ = Modest, intelligent companions, male or female. Unfortunately, this word has been almost invariably translated as ‘gorgeous women with big eyes’. ‘Hur’ applies to men and women both. The male gender is ‘Ahwar’ and the female gender is ‘Hawra’. - Again, ‘Hur’ = Men and women of vision who are modest and delightful companions. 'Khiam' = Blessed shady environment, instead of the literal 'tents or pavilions']

55:73 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:74 Companions never touched by human vices or evil prompting. (55:15, 55:56).

55:75 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:76 Relaxing on ever-fresh meadows and splendid carpets.

55:77 Then, O Men and women! Which Authority of your Lord will you deny?

55:78 Ever Blissful is the Name of your Lord, the Lord of Majesty and Honor!

**Surah 56 – Al-Waqiah – The Inevitable Episode**

[Author’s note] This is the 56th Surah of the Qur'an with 96 brief, forceful, yet elegant verses.

Along with reiteration of many glorious concepts in diverse ways, herein we find a powerful emphasis on the Law of Requital = The Law of Recompense = All actions have consequences = “As you sow, so shall you reap” = The Law of Cause and Effect.

The Qur’an strongly negates the erroneous belief of Paradise located ‘up there’ in the skies, and Hell existing in the deepest core of the earth. These fallacious dogmas which have kept countless people confused over the last ten centuries, find their source in the tragic ‘Imamist’ blunders and fabrications. As expounded in the Qur'an repeatedly, men and women build their Hell or Paradise with their own hands, and therefore, the process begins right here in this life. Paradise encompasses the whole Universe as the following verses in TASREEF indicate.

The description of Hell and Paradise is not to be taken literally since Allah Himself calls such verses allegorical. He explains them by examples because of our very limited intellect in this life (3:7, 3:132, 13:35, 32:17, 47:15, 57:21).

In the life to come humans will be recreated in exponentially advanced forms, and in an entirely new Cosmic Order as we learn in 56:61 and elsewhere.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

56:1 When the Inevitable Episode unfolds.

56:2 None could, then, deny its unfolding.

56:3 Lowering some, raising others, the Great Equalizer!

56:4 When the land is shaken with a shaking (popular uprising).

56:5 And the tyrannical powers crumble.

56:6 So that they scatter like sand in a sandstorm. (20:105, 28:20, 77:10, 81:3).

56:7 Then, you shall be three kinds.

56:8 So, (firstly) the blessed ones. Oh, how wonderful are the blessed ones!

('Yumn' = Blessing = Bliss = Grace = Right side = Right action 19:52, 28:30, 56:27).

56:9 And (secondly) the unblessed ones. Ah, how unfortunate are the unblessed ones!

('Mash'amah, from 'Shimal' = Unblessed = Left side = Wrong action 18:17, 56:41, 69:25).

56:10 And (thirdly) the foremost are the foremost!

(Those who led the race in doing good 55:63, 57:10).

56:11 They are the ones near (to their Lord), in both lives.

56:12 In Gardens of Delight.

56:13 A good many of those who led in goodness.

56:14 And some of those who trailed after them.

[Verses 13 and 14 are usually rendered, under the influence of fabricated tradition, to mean that most of the dwellers of Paradise will come from generations of the old (before the advent of the exalted Prophet Muhammad) and a few from the later generations. That is evidently contrary to the Big Picture of the Qur'an and to the Eternal Divine Justice, and blatantly discourages the followers of the Last Revelation]

56:15 On decorated thrones.

56:16 Reclining thereon, socializing.

56:17 Their children immortal, playful around them. (13:23, 52:21-24, 76:19).

56:18 With goblets, glistening beakers, and sparkling drinks.

56:19 Wherefrom they get no headache nor beclouding of mind. (37:47).

56:20 And fruit of their choice.

56:21 The supreme delicacies of life.

56:22 And lovely, intelligent spouses of vision. (55:72)

[‘Hurun ‘Een’ = Lovely modest companions of vision, male and female. This term carries special significance for the abuse it has been made to go through. Almost invariably translated as ‘gorgeous women with big black eyes’, that translation is neither linguistically correct nor does it fit into the Big Picture. ‘Een’ and derivatives literally may refer to eyes but have been used here and elsewhere as an allegory for vision and insight 23:27, 25:74, 33:51, 40:19, 52:48, 54:14]

56:23 Like unto pearls well-guarded, far from vice.

56:24 A reward for what they used to do.

[The Qur’an is replete with assertions that the Paradise is not achieved with rituals, wishful thinking, dogmas and lip-service, but only by actions that enhance the society and benefit others]

56:25 No vain talk will they hear therein, nor any call restraining from further development. (‘Ithm’ = Word or action that restrains, drags down or hurts human potential).

56:26 Nothing but the greeting and tiding of Peace! (And in the earthly paradise individuals contribute toward peace and security of the society).

56:27 And the blessed ones. Oh, how wonderful are the blessed ones!

56:28 Among orchards of life without thorns.

56:29 And trees laden with fruit and flower.

56:30 And cool expanded shades of abundant delight.

56:31 And water falls.

56:32 And fruit abounding.

56:33 Never interrupted, never too far.

56:34 And on thrones, raised in honor.

56:35 Behold, We have given these women a new being (wholly different from the Age of Ignorance 56:37).

56:36 And made them of unparalleled virtue.

[‘Abkara’ = Of matchless virtue. 'Abkara' has always been incorrectly translated as ‘virgins’ (with the sole exception of Allama G. A. Parwez. Qamoos and Raghib among the ancient experts of the Quraish dialect give it the correct meaning rendered here, as they cite several examples from ancient Arabic poetry). Interestingly, this is very similar to the wrong translation of ‘a maiden’ to ‘a virgin’ from Greek to English relating to Mary]

56:37 Eloquent, made of the same mettle, harmonious, blending well in the society.

(‘Urub’ from ‘Arabi’ = Eloquent. ‘Turab’ = Dust = Harmonious = Of the same mettle = Well-blended 43:18, 78:33).

56:38 They deserve the most blessed people.

56:39 A good many of those who led in goodness.

56:40 And a good many of those who trailed after them. (56:13-14).

56:41 Then, the unblessed ones. Ah, how unfortunate are the unblessed ones! (56:9).

56:42 In scorching wind, smoldering anguish!

56:43 Enshrouded in smoke, opaque.

56:44 Neither coolness of contentment nor honor of accomplishment.

56:45 Behold, before this, they were sunk in luxury, exploiting the poor.

56:46 And stubbornly persisted in their violations.

56:47 And they used to say, “What! When we die and become dust and bones, shall we possibly be raised?

56:48 And also our forefathers?”

56:49 Tell them, “Verily, those of old, and those of later generations.

56:50 All will be brought together on a Day assigned at an appointed time.”

56:51 Then, behold, O You the straying deniers!

56:52 You will eat the bitter fruit of the tree of your deeds. (37:62, 44:43, 56:52).

56:53 And fill your bellies with it.

56:54 And drink of burning anguish (that you gave to others).

56:55 And indeed drink as the camel with false thirst drinks.” (Greed could never give you inner contentment 26:225, 102:1-2).

56:56 Such will be their welcome on the Day of Judgment.

56:57 It is We Who have created you. Will you not, then, admit the Truth?

56:58 Have you ever considered the male and female seed?

56:59 Is it you who create it or are We the Creator?

56:60 We have designed the Laws of death among you and We are not unable -

56:61 That We may change your existence and coming into being in a manner and in an environ you know not.

56:62 And indeed you know the first coming into being. Why, then, do you not reflect?

56:63 Have you thought of the crops that you cultivate?

56:64 Is it you who grow it or are We the Grower?

56:65 If We willed, We surely could turn it into chaff, then you would be left to exclaim,

56:66 “Behold, we are now under debt.

56:67 Nay, but we are deprived!”

56:68 Have you thought of the water you drink?

56:69 Do you bring it down from the rain-cloud or do We?

56:70 If We willed, We surely could make it salty. Why, then, do you not show gratitude? (By devising an equitable system of provision for all).

56:71 Did you consider the fire you strike out?

56:72 Is it you who grow the tree as its fuel, or do We grow it? (41:10).

56:73 We, yes, We have made this (fire) a reminder, and a gift for all of you who surely need it. (The use of fire is one of the Divine gifts that distinguishes mankind from the Animal Kingdom).

56:74 Work hard, then, to establish the Glory of your Lord’s Supreme Name.

56:75 Nay, I present the stellar orbits as witness. (‘Mawaqi’ = Different locations in the orbits).

56:76 And behold! This, indeed, is a great witness if your knowledge can encompass it.

56:77 That this Qur’an is, indeed, a Noble Monograph.

56:78 In a well-guarded Book. (As conveyed to you).

56:79 The Book which none but the pure of mind can touch. (Those who approach the Qur'an with minds contaminated with preconceived notions and extrinsic material, will never understand it).

[It is a common insult to say that men cannot touch it without wudhu (ablution) and women cannot touch it when indisposed]

56:80 A Revelation from the Lord of the Worlds.

56:81 Now, is it this Hadith that you would hold in low esteem? (To uphold some other hadith).

56:82 And make its denial your daily bread? (Peddling conjecture as a means of minting money).

56:83 Why, then, as the last breath comes up to the throat,

56:84 And as you look on,

56:85 And We are closer unto him (the dying person) than you are, although you see not -

56:86 Why, then, if you owe nothing to Us,

56:87 Make the departing return, if you are men of truth? (Denying the Fact that Allah alone is the Giver of life and death, and man owes his abilities, limited or abundant, to Him).

56:88 Now, if he is of those drawn near (for having walked aright),

56:89 (For him) Jubilation, and inner fulfillment, and a Garden of Bliss!

56:90 And thus he is of the blessed ones,

56:91 So, "Salutation of Peace be upon you!" - from the blessed ones. (56:38).

56:92 But if he is of the rejecters, the straying,

56:93 Then the welcome will be smoldering anguish.

56:94 And scorching heat before the Insurmountable Barrier.

56:95 Verily, this is the most Certain Truth.

56:96 Work hard, then, to establish the Glory of your Lord's Supreme Name.

**Surah 57 – Al-Hadeed – Iron**

[Author's note] This is the 57th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 29 verses. The Surah derives its name from iron that serves mankind in various ways. Allah's Messengers and their companions have had to defend the faith with might when necessitated.

Allah never enjoined upon mankind monasticism, asceticism, 'sufism', 'yog' or mysticism. They are human inventions. Herein we find further emphasis on the Supremacy of the Divine Law following which the humans can achieve eternal success. 'Kuffar' are those who knowingly conceal or deny the Truth. Belief bears its fruit when it is translated into action. Motivation without action is a bird without wings.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

57:1 All things in the heavens and the earth are working relentlessly to fulfill the Divine Plan. And He is the Almighty, the Wise.

57:2 Unto Him belongs the Dominion of the heavens and the earth. His are the Laws of life and death and He has Power over all things.

57:3 He has no beginning and He has no ending. He is the Evident in His Attributes and the Hidden in His Person. And He is the Knower of all things. (Time and Space are His creation the totality of which is beyond the grasp of human intellect).

57:4 He it is Who has created the heavens and the earth in six stages, and is established on the Throne of His Almightiness of Supreme Control. (7:54, 10:3, 13:2, 20:5, 25:59, 32:4, 57:4). He knows all that enters the earth and all that comes forth from it, and all that descends from the sky, and all that ascends therein. And He is with you wherever you may be. And Allah is Seer of what you do.

57:5 Unto Him belongs the Kingdom of the Highs and the Lows, and unto Allah return all affairs. (His Laws determine the final outcome of all actions).

57:6 He merges the night into the day, and merges the day into the night. He is Knower of all that is in the hearts.

57:7 Believe in Allah and His Messenger. And spend of what He has made you trustees (your wealth and persons), on others. Those of you who believe and spend, theirs will be a Great Reward.

57:8 And what is amiss with you that keeps you from having conviction in Allah? And the Messenger invites you to believe in your own Sustainer and has indeed taken your pledge, if you are truly believers.

57:9 He it is who sends down clear Revelations to His servant, to bring you out from the depths of darkness unto the splendorous Light. And behold, for you Allah is Compassionate, Merciful.

57:10 And why should you not spend in the Cause of Allah when to Allah belongs the heritage of the heavens and the earth? Those who spend and fight before the victory are not at the same level as the rest of you. They have a greater rank than those who spend and fight after the victory. Unto each Allah has promised good. He is Aware of what you do. (55:62, 56:8-12).

57:11 Who is it that will lend unto Allah a goodly loan that He may increase it manifold, and his may be a generous reward?

57:12 On the Day when you will see the believing men and the believing women, their lights shining forth before them, blessing them, (it will be said) “A glad news for you this Day! Gardens beneath which flow rivers, to abide therein. This, this is the Supreme Triumph!" (57:9).

57:13 On that Day the hypocrite men and the hypocrite women will say to the believers, "Wait, look on us. Let us borrow from your light!" It will be said, "Go back behind you and seek light." Then a

 

barrier will be put up with a gate therein. On the inner side of it will be Grace, and on the outer side of it the doom.

57:14 They will cry unto them, "Were we not with you?" The believers will answer, "Yes, verily - but you let your “Self” succumb to temptation. And you tempted one another, hesitated (watching which side was prevailing), and doubted (Allah’s promise). And your fantasies misled you until there issued the Command of Allah. And indeed, the deceiver deceived you concerning Allah. (Deceiver = Desire).

57:15 So this Day no ransom can be accepted from you, nor from the open rejecters. Your home is the Fire. That is your care taker and a miserable destination it is.

57:16 Is it not time for the believers that their hearts feel humble at the remembrance of Allah and the Truth which has been revealed? Become not like those who were given the Scripture before, and whose hearts were hardened with time. And so, a great many of them have drifted away from Truth.

57:17 Know that Allah gives life to the land after it has been dead. For you We have indeed made Our Messages clear so that you might use your intellect.

57:18 Behold, the men and women who stand true to their proclamations of belief and lend a goodly loan to Allah, they will be repaid manifold. And theirs will be a generous reward.

57:19 For, those who (thus) believe in Allah and His Messengers, it is they – they who are indeed true, and they who are the witnesses to (the Glory of) their Lord. For them is their reward and their light. But, those who openly reject Our Messages and those who deny them in practice - it is they who will be companions of the Insurmountable Barrier (that bars their "Self" from developing).

57:20 Know that (in comparison to Eternity) the life of this world is only play and a fleeting delight and décor and your mutual bragging, and pursuit of riches and children. Its example is that of rain - The plantation which it causes to grow, pleases the farmers. But then, it may wither and you can see it turn into yellow hay. And in the end it crumbles into dust! But in the Hereafter it is either grievous suffering or forgiveness from Allah and Approval. Again, the life of this world is nothing but a fleeting enjoyment of illusion. (Therefore, invest in the life to come for lasting rewards).

[3:14-15, 10:24-25, 16:92, 18:45-46, 14:18, 24:39, 83:26, 102:1. ‘Kuffar’ in this verse, very uniquely, has been used in the very literal sense. Contrary to the popular translations, ‘Kuffar’ does not mean ‘disbelievers’ or 'unbelievers'. It refers to those who hide the truth. This is the only verse in the Qur’an where ‘Kuffar’ is indicating those who hide something. Specifically, the farmers who cover the seed with soil. While that in itself is a laudable work, in the given similitude the verse is talking about a crop that quickly turns into useless chaff. Hence, in this instance ‘Kuffar' = Farmers. In general, the term indicates those who conceal the Truth, and actively and knowingly hide or deny it. Also those who 'hide gratitude' or refuse to be grateful for Divine Guidance and for any blessings bestowed upon them]

57:21 So, be foremost in seeking absolution of your faults through the Laws of your Lord and thus a Paradise as vast as the heaven and the earth. (It transcends spatial boundaries encompassing the whole Universe 3:133). It has been readied for those who attain belief in Allah and His Messengers. Such is the Bounty of Allah which He bestows upon him who wills it. And Allah is the Lord of a tremendous bounty.

57:22 No disaster befalls the earth, nor yourselves but according to the Laws that We have already recorded in the Book of Decrees. Verily, all this is easy for Allah.

57:23 Thus despair not over whatever has left you, nor exult for whatever you have been given. For, Allah does not love any of those self-centered boasters -

57:24 - Who withhold wealth and enjoin upon people to hold back resources. And whoever turns away – verily, Allah alone is self-Sufficient, Owner of Praise.

57:25 Indeed, We sent Our Messengers with the evident Truth and revealed with them the Law and the Balance of right and wrong that mankind deal in justice. And We have bestowed the iron in which there is awesome power and many benefits for people, and that Allah may mark out him who helps Him and His Messengers although the victory is initially unseen. Verily, Allah is Strong, Almighty.

57:26 And indeed, We sent Noah and Abraham and granted their descendants Prophethood and the Scripture. And among them there is he who goes aright, but a great many of them have drifted away.

57:27 Then, in succession, We followed them up with (other of) Our Messengers. We caused them to be followed by Jesus son of Mary and gave him the Gospel. And We placed kindness and compassion in the hearts of those who followed him. As for monastic asceticism - We had never ordained it to them. They invented it themselves to seek Allah's Approval. But then, they did not uphold the Gospel with right observance. And so those who truly believed among them, We gave them their reward. But, a great many of them have been drifting away.

57:28 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be mindful of Allah and put faith in His Messenger. He will grant you double the reward of His Grace, here and there, and appoint for you a light wherein you shall walk, and will absolve your faults. For, Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

57:29 And the People of the Scripture should know that they have no power whatsoever over the Bounty of Allah. All Bounty is in Allah's hand and He grants it according to His Laws. And Allah is the Lord of a tremendous bounty. (He is the Lord of the Worlds and the Lord of all mankind and discriminates not between people 1:1, 114:1).

**Surah 58 – Al-Mujadilah – The Pleading**

[Author's note] This is the 58th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 22 verses. This Surah shines with a beautiful example of freedom of expression in the court of the Prophet and in the Court of Allah. Every time we seek guidance from the Book of Allah we must remind ourselves to do some act of kindness. Confidential meetings of any sort must not disregard collective good. Believers must make room for one another to succeed in the society.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

58:1 Allah has indeed heard her who pleads with you (O Prophet) concerning her husband, and complains unto Allah. And Allah has heard your mutual dialogue. Verily, Allah is Hearer, Seer.

58:2 Those of you who make senseless declarations about their wives, they by no means become their mothers. Their mothers are only those who gave birth to them. And so, behold, they only utter what is contrary to reason, and thus, false. And behold, Allah is Absolver of faults, Forgiving. (The procedure of divorce has been clearly expounded in 2:228-230, 4:3, 4:19, 4:35, 4:128, 33:4, 65:1-2).

['Zihr'= Extra = Redundant = Sundry = Putting away = Senseless word or action. 'Zihar' = Addressing the wife as mother and thinking that it nullifies the wedlock. Implicitly that encompasses similar irresponsible utterances whether in anger or humor]

58:3 Hence, those of you who have made senseless declarations about their wives, and then put them away into separation, and then wish to go back on their utterance – they should free a human being from bondage before the couple may 'touch' each other. This you are hereby admonished to perform. And Allah is Aware of all you do. (Freeing from bondage includes relieving someone from any kind of oppression and from a crushing burden of debt).

58:4 However, he who does not have the means thereof, let him resort to Abstinence (as in the month of Ramadan) for two consecutive months before the couple may 'touch' each other. And if he is unable to do that either, he should arrange the feeding of sixty needy ones. This is so that you might be true to your faith in Allah and His Messenger. Now these are the bounds ordained by Allah. And for the deniers of the Divine Commands is a painful doom.

58:5 Verily, those who oppose Allah and His Messenger will be disgraced as were disgraced those before their times. Thus, We have sent down Clear Messages, and for the rejecters is a shameful suffering.

58:6 On the Day when Allah will raise all of them together, He will inform them of what they truly accomplished. Allah ever keeps a meticulous record even though they may have forgotten it. For, Allah is Witness over all things.

58:7 Do you not realize that Allah knows all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. There is no secret meeting of three but He is their fourth, nor of five but He is their sixth, nor of less than that or more but He is with them wherever they may be. And ultimately, on the Day of Resurrection, He will inform them of what they truly accomplished. Verily, Allah is Knower of all things.

58:8 Have you not noticed those who were forbidden to conspire in secret meetings, and yet they revert to what they were forbidden, and continue to conspire together - for hampering progress, creating wedges of dissension in the society, and disobedience of the Messenger? And when they come to you (O Messenger), they greet you not in the way that Allah greets you - And say to themselves, "Why does not Allah punish us for what we say?" Sufficient for them is Hell (in both lives) wherein they burn. And how miserable that destination is!

58:9 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When you consult with one another confidentially, never consult aiming hampering progress of the community, nor in creating wedges of discord therein, and disobedience of the Messenger. But consult together for expansion of individual and social potential and seeking ways to facilitate collective right conduct. And always remain mindful of Allah unto Whom you all shall be gathered. (And all your actions end up facing His Law of Requital in both lives).

58:10 Behold, conspiracy comes forth from selfish desire, in the end causing grief to the believers, but it cannot harm them contrary to Divine Laws. Hence, in Allah should the believers put their trust. (Satan or the selfish desire cannot overwhelm the believers unless they forsake Divine Commands 15:42, 17:65, 38:83).

[In these verses, 9 and 10, the terms 'Ithm', 'Udwan', 'Birr', 'Taqwa' have been translated in their broad and exact Qur'anic sense]

58:11 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When you are told, “Accommodate one another in your collective life”, do accommodate, seeing that Allah will open up His resources for you. And when you are told, “Rise up”, do rise up to the occasion. Allah will exalt to high ranks those of you who truly believe in the Divine Commands, and who use the knowledge that they have been given. For, Allah is Aware of all you do. (‘Fas-h’ = Open up = Make room = Accommodate others).

58:12 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Whenever you wish to confer with the Messenger by yourself, give something in charity to the needy or do an act of benevolence. That will be for your own good and cleanse the imprints of your faults on your ‘Self’. But if you have no opportunity, then, behold, Allah is Absolver of faults, Merciful. (He rewards good intentions).

58:13 Is it that you are afraid of a transgression if you are not able to do such an act of kindness before you confer with the Messenger? Yet if you fail to find an opportunity to do it, Allah has already accepted your repentance (58:12). Hence, stay focused on establishing Salat - the Divine System, and setting up the Just Economic Order of Zakat. And obey Allah and His Messenger. For, Allah is Aware of all you do.

[The Command in these two verses, 12 and 13 is fully applicable even today. It serves as a constant reminder to us for doing an act of kindness whenever we 'confer' with Allah and His Messenger, the teachings embodied in the Qur’an. This act of kindness certainly includes conveying even one verse to one person. ‘Each one teach one’. It is unfortunate that many of the traditional commentators consider these two verses abrogated after the exalted Prophet’s life time! The very thought of abrogation of any verses of the Qur’an is absolutely untenable and non-Qur’anic. 2:106]

58:14 Have you not seen those who befriend a people whom Allah disapproves? They are neither of you nor of them, and they knowingly swear on falsehood.

58:15 Allah has readied for them a severe suffering. Behold, very disruptive is their behavior indeed.

58:16 They use their oaths as cover and bar others from the Path of Allah. So theirs will be a shameful doom.

58:17 Their wealth and their children and party will avail them not against Allah. It is they who are companions of the Fire, therein to abide.

58:18 On the Day, when Allah will raise them together, all of them, they will then swear unto Him as they now swear unto you – deeming themselves to be accepted as reliable. Nay! Verily, it is they, they who are the liars.

58:19 Their selfish desire has overpowered them, and made them oblivious to Allah's Reminder. Such as these are the party of the Satan. Oh, verily, it is they, the Satan's party who are the ultimate losers.

58:20 Verily, those who oppose Allah and His Messenger, it is they who will finally be brought low.

58:21 For, Allah has decreed, "I shall dominate, I and My Messengers." Behold, Allah is Strong, Almighty.

58:22 You will not find those who truly believe in Allah and the Last Day endear anyone who opposes Allah and His Messenger, even though they be their fathers or their sons or their brothers or their tribe. Allah has inscribed conviction on their hearts, and has strengthened them with Energy from Himself. Hence, He will admit them into Gardens underneath which rivers flow. Well pleased is Allah with them, and well pleased are they with Him. They are the party of Allah. Oh, verily, it is they, the party of Allah, who are truly successful.

**Surah 59 – AL-Hashr – The Gathering**

[Author's note] This is the 59th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 24 verses. The title refers to the gathering of forces and peaceful exile in 4 Hijrah (627 C.E.) of the Jewish tribe of Bani'n Nadhir at Khaibar near Madinah. They were banished from there after they had repeatedly violated the peace treaties they had signed with the exalted Prophet. They kept joining hands with the Makkans, the hypocrites and some clans attempting to annihilate the believers. With 600 camels laden with their belongings, the tribes were allowed to migrate peacefully to any place of their choosing and thereupon they relocated themselves in Syria.

Whenever we reflect upon the Book of Allah in all sincerity, we cannot fail to perceive the Truth of this Divine allegory: "Had We sent down this Qur'an upon a mountain, you would have seen it humble itself and rent asunder from the Awesomeness of Allah." (59:21).

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

59:1 All that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth is incessantly working to manifest the Glory of Allah and to fulfill His Plan. For, He is Almighty, the Wise.

59:2 He it is Who got out the rejecters among the People of the Book from their dwelling places at the very gathering of the forces. You deemed not that they would leave and they deemed that their strongholds would defend them against Allah. But Allah reached them in a manner they little expected and caused awe in their hearts. So they dismantled their dwellings by their own hands and the hands of the believers. Learn a lesson, then, O You who have vision!

59:3 And if Allah had not decreed banishment for them, behold, He would have punished them harder in this world, yet for them is suffering of the Fire in the life to come.

59:4 This, because they had opposed Allah and His Messenger. And whoever opposes Allah, for him Allah is Stern in grasping.

59:5 Whatever softness you disregarded, or kept up by way of principle, was in accord with Allah's Command, in order that He might disgrace those who drifted away from their treaties.('Lina' = Softness, gentleness = Soft young palm. 'Fasiq' = One who drifts away).

[The usual rendition of this verse, under the influence of erroneous traditions, points to the cutting off of the palm trees. But slight reflection on linguistics, TASREEF, the context and the Big Picture of the Qur'an mentions here an eternally significant Ordinance for the believers: Be kind or be stern only in the Cause of Allah, and not for personal reasons 3:159]

59:6 And whatever Allah has turned over to His Messenger, you did not toil on any horse or camel for it. But Allah gives His Messengers upper hand according to His Laws. For, Allah is the Appointer of due measure for all things.

59:7 Whatever Allah has turned over to His Messenger from those communities belongs to Allah and His Messenger (the Central Authority). (The Messenger will spend it on):

- The Central Government (The Central Authority).
- The welfare of the families of the believers.
- The orphans.
- Those who still feel left alone in the society.
- The widows.
- Those who have no means of earning their livelihood.
- The disabled who cannot move around looking for the Bounty of Allah.
- The homeless son of the street.
- Those who are on their way to join you, and
- Those who travel a distance to seek help.

So that it may not keep revolving between the wealthy among you. Hence, take what the Messenger gives you, and abstain from what he forbids you. Be mindful of Allah. Verily, Allah is Stern in grasping.

59:8 And it is for the poor refugees who have been expelled from their homelands and their property. And they seek Allah's Bounty and Approval, and support Allah and His Messenger. It is they, they who are true to their faith.

59:9 Also those who resided in the city (Madinah) before them and attained faith. They love those who immigrated to them, and find no hesitation in their hearts in helping them. But rather give them preference over themselves, even though poverty be their own lot. And whoever is saved from greediness of the heart, such are the ones who truly prosper.

59:10 And those who come after the first immigrants, say, "Our Lord! Forgive us and our brethren who came into Faith before us, and let not be any malice in our hearts toward those who believe. Our Lord! Verily, You are Compassionate, Merciful."

59:11 Have you not noted the hypocrites how they told their disbelieving brethren among the People of the Scripture, "If you are driven out, we certainly will go forth with you, and shall never heed anyone against you. And if you are attacked, certainly shall we help you." But Allah bears witness that they surely are liars.

59:12 For indeed, if they (Bani'n Nadhir) are driven away, they (the hypocrites) will not go forth with them, and if indeed they are attacked they will help not. And even if they try to help them, they will turn their backs in flight, and themselves find no help.

59:13 Nay, you believers arouse a fear in their hearts more intense than even the fear of Allah. This is because they are a people who do not understand (that all strength comes from following Divine Laws).

59:14 Never will they fight you, even if they form a coalition, other than from within fortified strongholds or from behind walls. Within themselves is great adversity for each other. You may think they are united but their hearts are far apart. This, because they are a people who use not reason.

59:15 Their example is the same as of those who lately preceded them. They tasted the calamity for their (wrong) decisions, and theirs is the awful doom.

59:16 They (the hypocrites) are like Satan. He says unto man, "Deny the Truth!" But as soon as man has denied the Truth, it says, "Behold, I am not responsible for you. Verily, I fear Allah, Lord of the Worlds."

59:17 Thus, the end for both is in the Fire, therein to abide. Such is the reward of those who relegate the Truth. ('Both' = Selfish desire + The human personality).

59:18 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Be mindful of Allah and watch everyday what you have invested for your 'Self' for tomorrow. Again, remain conscious of the Laws of Allah (today and every day). Behold, Allah is fully Aware of all your actions.

59:19 And be not like those who forgot Allah, therefore, He (His Law) made them forget themselves. It is they, they who have drifted away (from the road to Success).

59:20 Not equal are the dwellers of the Fire and the dwellers of the Garden. Dwellers of the Garden – it is they, they who are crowned with honor.

59:21 Had We sent down this Qur'an upon a mountain, you would have indeed seen it humble itself and rent asunder for Awesomeness of Allah. Such examples We cite for mankind, so that they might think.

59:22 He is Allah, other than Whom there is no god, Knower of the Invisible and the Visible. He is the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

59:23 He is Allah, other than Whom there is no god ('no deity, no Law-giver and no one worthy of worship or obedience). The King Supreme, the Impeccable, the Peace and the Source of all peace, the Guardian of Faith and Security, the Watcher of the Universe, the Majestic, the All Powerful, the Superb. Glorious is Allah, far Above what they ascribe unto Him.

59:24 He is Allah, the Supreme Creator, the Shaper out of nothing, the Designer. His Names are the Most Beautiful Names, and His alone are the Attributes of Perfection. All things in the heavens and the earth constantly work to manifest His Glory and to fulfill His Plan. And He is Almighty, the Wise. (He runs the Universe in His Infinite Power with His Infinite Wisdom).

**Surah 60 – Al-Mumtahinah – The Lady Under Oath**

[Author's note] This is the 60th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 13 Verses. This Surah has some brand new concepts not yet expounded in the previous chapters. Allah enjoins upon believers kindness and compassion toward all human beings. He permits them to fight those who attack them on account of Faith or evict them from their homelands.

In Prophet Abraham and his blessed companions is an excellent pattern of conduct for all humanity.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

60:1 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not take My enemies – who are your enemies as well – for friends. Do you extend love and friendship to them when they reject the Truth that has come to you, driving out the Messenger and you because you believe in Allah, your Lord? If you are committed to strive in My Way and to seek My Approval, befriend them not. Do you show them friendship in secret, when I am best Aware of what you conceal and what you reveal? And whoever among you does that, he has certainly strayed from the right way. (3:117).

60:2 If they ever overcome you, they will divide you, and smite you with their hands and tongues causing much disruption. For, they will love to see you reject the Truth. ('Idia' = Wedge = Wedge of division = Enmity = Dissension = Distance. 'Su' = Disruption = Imbalance = Evil = Inequity).

60:3 (Divine Ideology comes first. Know that) Your family, relatives and your children will avail you not on the Resurrection Day. He will decide between you on individual merit alone. And Allah is Seer of all that you do.

60:4 Indeed there is an Excellent Pattern for you in Abraham, and his companions. They said to their folk, "Verily, we stay clear of you and of what you worship instead of Allah. We denounce you and between us and you has arisen distance and aversion until you believe in Allah alone." The only exception was Abraham's saying to his father, "I will indeed pray for your forgiveness, although I have no power to achieve anything from Allah on your behalf." Then he prayed, "Our Lord! In You we place our trust, unto You we turn, and unto You is the Final Destination. (9:113, 14:41, 19:47, 33:21, 58:22).

60:5 Our Lord! Let us not be made a target of persecution at the hands of the rejecters. And protect us, our Lord!" Verily, You, You alone are the Mighty, the Wise." ('Ghafara = Helmet, armor = Protection = Forgiveness = Absolution of faults = Protection against intrinsic or extrinsic loss).

60:6 In them, indeed, you have an excellent pattern, for anyone who looks forward to Allah and the Last Day. And whoever turns away, behold! Allah, He is Independent, the Owner of All Praise.

60:7 It may well be that Allah will bring about affection between you and those whom you now consider enemies. Allah is the Powerful Appointer of His Laws. And Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

60:8 Allah does not forbid you from being kind, and fully equitable to those who do not fight you on account of Religion, and do not evict you from your homelands. Behold, Allah loves those who lead a just, balanced life.

60:9 Allah only forbids you from befriending only those who fight you on account of Religion and evict you from your homelands, or help others in evicting you. Whoever befriends them, it is they, they who will be wrongdoers.

60:10 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When believing women come to you as immigrants, investigate their case, although only Allah is best Aware of their Faith. Once you establish that they are indeed believers, do not return them to the rejecters of the Truth. They are not lawful for the rejecters, nor are the rejecters lawful for them. Give the rejecters what they have spent on them (as dowry). And there is no blame on you if you marry these women, when you have given them their due marital gift. And do not hold on to wedlock with women who continue to deny the Truth. And you may ask them for the dowry you had paid, just as the rejecters have the right to ask the return of what they spent. This is the Judgment of Allah. He judges between you, for Allah is all-Knowing, all-Wise.

60:11 If the dower of a believer's immigrant wife has gone to the disbelievers, at your turn (when a believing woman comes to you for asylum, the government will) compensate your men from what they had given (to their disbelieving wives as dower). Be mindful of Allah in Whom you are believers.

60:12 O Prophet! When believing women come unto you taking oath of allegiance to you (they shall pledge that they will) -

- Not associate anyone with Allah.
- Not steal the rights of others.
- Not commit immodesty.
- Neither kill their children, nor deprive them of good rearing.
- Not indulge in fabricating slander, either overtly or covertly.
- Not disobey you in the Qur'anic Values.

When they have made the pledge, accept their allegiance and ask Allah to bestow upon them the protection of forgiveness. For, behold, Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

60:13 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Do not befriend a people whom Allah has condemned. Of the Hereafter they are already in despair – just as the deniers of the Truth despair (the resurrection) of those who are in the graves.

**Surah 61 – As-Saff – The Column**

[Author’s note] This is the 61st Surah of the Qur'an. It has 14 verses. A believer should say what he means, and mean what he says. And never promise what he does not or will not do.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

61:1 All things in the heavens and all things in the earth are constantly working to manifest the Glory of Allah and to fulfill His Plan. For, He is the Almighty, the Wise.

61:2 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Why do you say something which you don’t do?

61:3 Most reprehensible it is in the Sight of Allah that you say that which you do not.

61:4 Verily, Allah loves those who fight in His Cause in columns as if they were a rock solid wall.

61:5 (The people of Moses so frequently said what they did not do that) Moses had to tell them, “O My people! Why do you hurt me, even though you know that I am Allah’s Messenger to you?” But when they kept deviating, Allah let their hearts deviate. For, Allah shows not the Way to those who keep drifting away from their word. ('Fasiq' = One who drifts away - from? - depends on the context).

61:6 And (the same happened when) Jesus son of Mary said, “O Children of Israel! Behold, I am a Messenger of Allah unto you. I confirm the Divine Origin of the Torah, and give you the glad news of a Messenger to come after me whose name shall be Ahmad (the Praised One.”) But when he has come unto them with the self-evident Truth, the People of the Scripture say, “It is obviously a magical lie.”

[John 14:16, 15:26, 16:7 PARACLETOS = COMFORTER, from original Greek PERICLYTOS = THE PRAISED ONE. In Aramaic, MAWHAMANA = THE PRAISED ONE]

61:7 And who does greater wrong than he who invents a lie against Allah when he is invited to Al-Islam? But Allah does not intervene to show the Way to the people who relegate the Truth.

61:8 They aim to put out Allah’s Light with their mouths (utterances), but Allah has willed to spread His Light in all its fullness, however hateful this may be to the deniers of the Truth.

61:9 He it is Who has sent forth His Messenger with the Guidance, and the Religion of Truth, that He may make it prevail over all religion (other systems of life) however hateful this may be to those who ascribe partners to Him. (9:31-33, 14:48, 18:48, 48:28, 61:9).

61:10 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Shall I tell you of a trade that will save you from a painful doom (in both lives?)

61:11 That you put your Faith in Allah and His Messenger and strive in Allah’s Cause with your wealth and person. This is for your own good, if your knowledge could encompass it. (9:111).

61:12 He will guard you from trailing behind in humanity, and admit you into Gardens beneath which rivers flow, and into beautiful mansions in the Gardens of Eden, (Gardens of Eternal Bliss). That is the Supreme Triumph.

61:13 And yet another thing that you so dearly love! Help from Allah and imminent victory (soon in this very life). So give glad news to the believers (O Prophet).

61:14 O You who have chosen to be blessed with belief! Be Allah's helpers. As an example - Jesus son of Mary said to the disciples, "Who are my helpers for Allah?" They said, "We are Allah's helpers." Thus a group from the Children of Israel accepted him, and another group rejected him. Then We strengthened those who believed, against their foe, and they became triumphant.

## Surah 62 – Al-Jum'ah – The Congregation

[Author's note] This is the 62nd Surah of the Qur'an and it has 11 verses. This Surah emphasizes that the Book of Allah must be understood and acted upon. Merely reciting or showing reverence is not enough. The Friday congregation is not to be equated with Sabatth since we find in 62:10 that Muslims are to work seeking Allah's Bounty on this day as on other days of the week.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

62:1 All things in the heavens and all things in the earth strive to manifest the Glory of Allah, the King Supreme, the Impeccable, the Almighty, the Wise.

62:2 He it is Who has sent a Messenger among those who had never before received a Scripture – to convey unto them His Messages, and to make them grow in humanity, and to instruct them in the Scripture (as it is being revealed) and Wisdom, Judgment and establishment of Allah's Rule on earth. Whereas before that they were obviously lost in error.

['Ummi = Gentile = Unlettered = Who never received a Scripture. 'Zaku' or 'Tazkiah' = Growth = Purity from vice = Development of personality = Self-actualization. 'Hikmah' = Wisdom = Judgment = Governance = Political Rule]

62:3 And (sent for) others who have not yet joined them in place and time. For, He is Almighty, the Wise.

62:4 Such is Allah's Bounty – which He bestows upon him who is willing to receive it. (His Light is available to whoever turns it on). For, Allah is the Lord of Great Bounty.

62:5 (The Book of Allah is to be read and understood, and not placed in high niches.) The example of those who were entrusted with Torah, and did not apply it in their daily lives, is that of the donkey that carries a load of books. Tough indeed is the example of people who deny Allah's Verses by their actions. Allah does not show the Way to people who displace the Revelation from its rightful station. ('Kizb' = Belie = Give lie = Deny in practice. 'Kufr' = Reject openly = Darkness = Denial = Ingratitude. 'Zulm' = Dislodge from the rightful place = Relegate the Truth = Give preference to other sources = Oppression = Wrongdoing = Violation of human rights).

62:6 Say, “O’ You who follow the Jewish faith! If you claim that you are friends of Allah to the exclusion of the rest of mankind, then long for death if you are truthful!”

62:7 But never will they long for it because of the deeds their hands have sent ahead. And Allah is fully Aware of those who relegate the Truth. (2:94-96).

62:8 Say, “Behold, the death from which you shrink so much is bound to overtake you, and then you will be returned to the Knower of the Invisible and the Visible. And then He will inform you of what you truly accomplished.”

62:9 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When the prayer is announced on the Day of the Congregation, hasten to the remembrance of Allah and leave your commerce. That is for your own good if you used your knowledge to understand.

62:10 And when the prayer is ended, disperse freely in the land and seek of Allah’s Bounty. And remember Allah often so that you may prosper.

62:11 Yet when they see some bargain or entertainment, they rush to it, and leave you standing. Say, “That which is with Allah is better than all entertainment and all bargain. And Allah is the Best of providers.”

**Surah 63 – Al-Munafiqoon – The Hypocrites**

[Author’s note] This is the 63rd Surah of the Qur'an. It has 11 verses. Hypocrisy is a personality disorder. It not only indicates a difference in word and action, but it is the antithesis to Conviction. A person with Conviction can be trusted in his word and action. On the contrary a hypocrite cannot be trusted. Linguistically the term MUNAFIQ is interesting. It refers to a person who, upon entering a situation, habitually looks for a way out. That is how rats in the wild dig their tunnels with one real opening and the other a fake opening just superficially covered with dust, in order to escape a predator. At places, the Qur’an terms their state as “a disease of the hearts.” It is to be noted that the hypocrites are not necessarily a group of people. They walked around the exalted Prophet as they do in every community today.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

63:1 When the hypocrites come to you (O Prophet), they say, “We bear witness that you are indeed Allah’s Messenger.” Yes, Allah knows that you are truly His Messenger, and Allah bears witness that the hypocrites are in fact deniers in practice.

63:2 They make their oaths and proclamation of Faith a cover so that they may bar others from the Path of Allah. Miserable indeed is what they do.

63:3 This, because they profess (before you) that they have believed whereas afterward (among their folk) they reject the Truth. And so a seal has been set upon their heart, thus they understand not. (Variation between utterance and action hampers the power of reasoning within human psyche 61:2-5).

63:4 Now when you see them, their looks may impress you. And if they speak, you are inclined to listen to their speech. But they are like wooden logs propped up. (Empty of inner strength unable to stand on their own feet). They think that every call is directed against them. These are the real enemies, so beware of them. Allah condemns them. They are far deviated.

63:5 And when it is said to them, “Come! Allah’s Messenger will ask for your forgiveness,” they shake their heads, and you see them pause, and then draw back in false pride.

63:6 It is the same for them whether you pray for their forgiveness, or not pray for their forgiveness. Allah will not forgive them. For, behold, Allah does not guide those who keep drifting away from reason.

63:7 They it is who say, “Spend nothing on those with Allah’s Messenger, so that they disperse (and leave the city).” However, to Allah belong the Treasures of the heavens and the earth, but the hypocrites comprehend not. (‘Ansar’ the Muslim residents of Madinah were supporting the needy ‘Muhajirin’ or immigrants from Makkah).

63:8 And they say (upon returning from Banu Mustaliq in 5 A.H.), “Indeed, when we return to Al-Madinah, we the honored ones will expel there from those contemptible ones.” However, all honor belongs to Allah and to His Messenger and those who believe. But the hypocrites know not.

63:9 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Let not your wealth nor your children distract you from the Reminder of Allah. For, any who does so, it is they, they who are the losers.

63:10 And spend on others of what We have provided you with, before death comes to one of you. And he then says, “My Lord! If only You would delay this for a short while, so that I could give in charity and be among the righteous.”

63:11 But never does Allah delay to a person when his term has come. And Allah is fully Aware of what you have accomplished in life.

## Surah 64 – At-Taghabun – The Ultimate Loss and Gain

[Author’s note] This is the 64th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 18 verses. ‘Taghabun’ pertains to mutual loss and gain in daily lives, business or battle. It also indicates the Ultimate Loss and Gain on the Day of Judgment.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

64:1 All things in the heavens and all things in the earth relentlessly strive to fulfill Allah’s Plan, and manifest Allah’s Glory. To Him belongs the Supreme Kingdom, and all Universe is a living witness of His Praise. The Universe itself displays that He is Able to do all things. He is the Powerful Appointer of His Laws and of due measure of all things.

64:2 He it is Who created you (and endowed you with free will). Hence, one of you is a denier of the Truth and one of you chooses to be graced with belief. And Allah is Seer of all you do.

64:3 He created the heavens and the earth in Truth and with a Sublime Purpose. And He formed you and formed you so well with beautiful potentials. And unto Him is the Final Destination.

64:4 He knows every detail in the Highs and the Lows and He knows what you conceal and what you reveal. For, Allah is Knower of what is in the hearts.

64:5 Has not the news reached you of those who denied the Truth in the earlier times, and so they did taste the calamity for their (wrong) decisions? And for them was a painful chastisement.

64:6 This, because their Messengers kept coming to them with self-evident Truth, but they said, “Shall mere human beings guide us?” And so they rejected and turned away. And Allah was ever Self-Sufficient. For, Allah is Independent, Owner of Praise.

64:7 Those who reject the Truth think that they will never be raised again. Say, “Yes indeed, by my Lord! You will be raised again. And then you will be informed of what you really accomplished. For, this is easy for Allah.”

64:8 Therefore, put your Faith in Allah, His Messenger and the Light which We have revealed. For, Allah is fully Aware of your actions (how intricately they harm or benefit you).

64:9 The Day when He shall gather you all on the Day of the Gathering, that will be the Day of loss and gain. And whoever chooses to be graced with belief, and helps others, Allah will blot out the imprints of his faults and admit him into Gardens beneath which rivers flow, therein to abide forever. That is the Supreme Triumph.

64:10 But those who frankly reject, or practically deny Our Messages, such are companions of the Fire. They will abide therein, and how miserable a destination it is!

64:11 No calamity befalls but by Allah’s Laws. And whoever believes in Allah, he guides his own heart. (Such a person understands that the Divine Laws in the entire Universe are changeless. That forms the basis of all science, and such nations keep improving their preventive and restorative capacities). And Allah is the Knower of all things and events.

64:12 Obey Allah and obey the Messenger (the Central Authority). But if you turn away, the duty of Our Messenger is only to convey the Message clearly.

64:13 Allah! There is no god but He. In Allah, then, let the believers put their trust. (They know that His Laws never change).

64:14 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Behold, among your spouses and your children may be enemies unto you. (They could create a wedge between you and the Divine Order). So beware of them! And if you pardon, ignore, and absolve their imperfections, then, behold Allah is Absolver of imperfections, Merciful.

64:15 Your wealth and children provide you with a test. (If you maintain balance in this life and the life to come, and take good care of them 2:221), thus with Allah is a Tremendous Reward.

64:16 So be mindful of Allah as best as you can. And listen, and obey, and spend on others (your wealth and person). That is good for your own ‘Selves’. For, any who is protected from his own greediness - it is they, they who are truly successful.

64:17 If you lend unto Allah a goodly loan, He will multiply it for you and will grant you the protection of forgiveness. Allah is Appreciative, Clement.

64:18 Knower of the Invisible and the Visible, the Mighty, the Wise.

**Surah 65 – At-Talaq – Divorce**

[Author's note] This is the 65th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 12 verses. Allah holds man accountable only to the extent what He has given to him. Some very important Laws for divorce are propounded in this Surah in addition to 2:228-234, 4:3, 4:19, 4:35, 4:128, 33:49, 58:1 65:1-4.

According to the Qur'an, there is absolutely no room for an instant divorce. The process must take months in order to allow reconsideration on the part of the husband and wife. It is highly unfortunate and shameful that Muslim jurists have been ignoring and practically revoking these clear verses of the Book of Allah for centuries, in favor of their own conjecture. According to their exploitative and erroneous edicts if a husband utters the word ‘Divorce’ three times in anger or under any kind of duress or even in a stage drama or movie, divorce takes effect instantly. What a mockery of the Qur’an!

It is interesting to note that the so called 'fuqaha' (jurists and mullahs), who otherwise uphold Hadith in preference to the Word of God, conveniently disregard even their 'treasure' whenever it suits their purpose. (They even 'abrogate' the Qur'anic verses against Hadith!) In this instance, there is a Hadith in Ibn Majah. The exalted Prophet is reported to have said, "La talaqa fil Ighlaq" = There is absolutely no divorce under any kind of duress, coercion, suddenness, anger etc. This Hadith which is in total harmony with the Qur'an remains obscure to the 'Ulema'.

Incidentally there is another beautiful Hadith that strikes a chord with 65:2. The exalted Prophet is reported to have said, "For you O people! Just this verse of the Qur'an could be sufficient. Anyone who is mindful of Allah, He will always grant a way out for him (from difficult situations).

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

65:1 O Prophet! When you men intend to divorce women, make sure that the waiting period is observed. Keep precise account of this interim. Be mindful of Allah, your Lord. Never expel them from THEIR homes, nor shall they themselves leave their homes unless they commit open immorality. These are, then, the limits imposed by Allah. And whoever crosses Allah's limits, he verily hurts his own ‘Self’. You know not that Allah may bring about thereafter a new situation (help create reconciliation).

[The waiting period before a divorced woman or a widow can remarry, has been explained before and reiterated now (65:4, 2:228, 2:234). There is no waiting period for women with whom husbands have had no intimate relations 33:49]

 

65:2 And so when they have reached their waiting term, either retain them in kindness or part with them in kindness. And let there be two just persons among you to witness, and establish the evidence straight for Allah. This exhortation is for him who believes in Allah and the Last Day. And anyone who is mindful of Allah, He will always grant a way out for him (from difficult situations).

65:3 And will provide for him in a manner he has not expected. And whoever places his trust in Allah, He will suffice him. Behold, Allah always brings His Command to pass. Indeed, for all things Allah has appointed due gauge.

65:4 And such of your women as no longer expect menstruation, as well as those women who do not have menstruation (for any physiological reason), to resolve your doubts, their waiting period is ordained to be three months. And for those who are pregnant, the waiting period ends when they deliver their burden. And anyone who is mindful of Allah, He will make his situation easy for him.

[Note the word 'Hamlahunna' = Their burden = What they carry, - instead of 'their baby or child'. Hence, the term includes abortion, conditions such as moles, and all kinds of abnormal pregnancies and outcomes]

65:5 That is the Commandment of Allah which He reveals unto you. Anyone who is mindful of Allah, He will absolve his faults and amplify for him the reward.

65:6 Let them (the divorced women) live where you live with the same standard of living that you have, and according to your best means. Harass them not to make life difficult for them. And if they are pregnant, spend on them freely until they deliver their burden. Then, if they nurse your baby, give them their due recompense. And frequently consult together amicably. And if both of you find it difficult, let another woman suckle the baby on his behalf. (The father shall pay for the services of a foster mother).

65:7 Let the affluent man give according to his affluence, and the poor man give according to what Allah has given him. Allah does not burden any human being with more than what He has given him. Allah will soon bestow relief after a hardship.

65:8 And how many a community has rebelled against the Command of its Lord and His Messengers! Hence, We called each to account with a stern accounting and punished it with an exemplary punishment.

65:9 And thus it tasted the calamitous outcome of its own doing. For, the consequence of their deeds was an utter loss.

65:10 Allah has readied for them awful suffering (in the Hereafter as well). So always be mindful of Allah, O Men and women of understanding – you who have chosen to be graced with belief! For, indeed, Allah has sent down to you a Reminder.

65:11 (A Reminder) A Messenger who conveys to you Clear Messages of Allah so that he might lead those who have chosen to be graced with belief, and help others, from the depths of darkness into the Light. (5:15-16, 7:157, 76:4). And whoever believes in Allah and works for the good of others, He will admit him into Gardens beneath which rivers flow, therein to abide forever. Indeed, Allah has made for him excellent provision.

65:12 Allah it is Who has created seven Highs and their seven Lows. Through all of them descends His Command. (This is said) for you to know that Allah is the Powerful Appointer of His Laws. He has gauged everything, and that Allah encompasses all things in His Knowledge. (‘Seven’ also means several. Every height has its low, hence every heaven or sky has its ‘earth’. Mankind must strive to live by Divine Commands as does the entire Universe).

**Surah 66 – At-Tehrim – Prohibition**

[Author's note] This is the 66th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 12 verses. A Noble Ideology must form the basis of lasting relationships. Allah alone has the Authority of declaring something Lawful or Unlawful. And these Laws are given in the Qur'an.

The Surah has no room for the contradictory and irrational stories of the exalted Prophet prohibiting honey for himself or of divorcing Maria, the Coptic. Among the historical accounts the one that stands up to reason is this: The exalted Prophet had mentioned to his wife Hafsah r.a. that Abu Bakr r.a. would likely be his successor followed by Umar r.a. Then, Hafsah r.a. shared this confidential information with another wife Aisha r.a. (It is a well-known saying that a secret between more than two persons is no more a secret). The exalted Prophet probably did not wish to announce his foresight in order to let the believers mutually consult and elect their leader after him.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

66:1 O Prophet! Would you prohibit something that Allah has made Lawful for you, even to please your wives? For, Allah is Absolver of (their) imperfections, Merciful.

[The big question: What would the exalted Prophet ban on himself that is Lawful and that would please his wives? I am of the opinion that in his compassion, the Prophet wished to promise his wives that he would not divorce any of them under any circumstances. (He never did anyhow). Divorce, although a very unpleasant last resort, is not prohibited by Allah. To my knowledge no exponent of the Qur’an has answered the big question as stated above, however, it sounds reasonable keeping in view the context and the flow of the verses]

66:2 Allah has already decreed for you believers the procedure for dealing with your oaths. (2:225, 5:89). Allah is your Master, and He is the Knower, the Wise.

66:3 (Family life must be arelation of mutual trust. Now follows an example for the believers.) The Prophet confided a certain statement to one of his wives but then she divulged it. And Allah let this known to him. He then informed his wife of part of the issue and disregarded part. She asked him, “Who informed you of this?” He said, “The Knower, the Aware has informed me.”

66:4 If you two turn in repentance to Allah, (it shall be good for you) since your hearts had deviated. But if you back up each other against him (in divulging family matters), then, behold, Allah is his Patron, and so is Gabriel (who reveals the Truth), and the righteous believers. Also angels are his helpers. (‘Angels’ here denotes perseverance, restraint, courage, resolve, contentment 3;126, 8:9, 9:26, 33:56).

66:5 If he divorces any of you, it may happen that his Lord substitute other wives in your stead who are better than you, submissive to Allah, staunch believers, devoted, repentant, serving Allah, traveling with him, widows or maidens.

66:6 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! (You are thus admonished so that you) guard yourselves and your families against a Fire whose fuel is people and their stone hearted leaders. The guardians of this Fire are the invincible, changeless Divine Laws that never fail to execute Allah's Ordinance, and carry it out without exception.

66:7 O You rejecters of the Truth! Make no excuses for yourselves this Day. You are only being paid for what you used to do.

66:8 O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! Turn to Allah in sincere repentance. Your Lord will then erase your misdeeds, and admit you into the Gardens underneath which rivers flow – on the Day when Allah will not let be degraded His Messenger and those who are with him in Faith. Their Light will run ahead of them as grace for them. They will say, "Our Lord! Perfect our Light for us making it last forever, and absolve our imperfections. Verily, You are Controller of all things."

66:9 O Prophet! Strive against the rejecters of the Truth and the hypocrites, and be stern with them. Hell will be their home, and how pathetic a destination.

66:10 Allah cites an example for those who deny the Truth. The wife of Noah and the wife of Lot, they were wedded to two of Our righteous servants yet each one betrayed her husband them so that neither of them (their husbands) could avail them at all against Allah. And it was said, "Enter the Fire along with others who enter it."

66:11 And Allah gives an example for those who have chosen to be graced with belief: The wife of Pharaoh when she said, "My Lord! Build for me a mansion in the Paradise, and save me from Pharaoh and his doings, and save me from the oppressors."

66:12 And Mary, daughter of Imran, who guarded her modesty (in very adverse circumstances. She revolted against the non-Divine institution of monasticism, and got married adopting the natural family life). And We breathed into her (baby) something from Our Energy (free will, as We do to all human beings 2:30). And she put faith in the Commands and Laws of her Lord, and was of the obedient.

**Surah 67 – Al-Mulk – The Supreme Kingdom**

[Author's note] This is the 67th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 30 verses. The Surah drives home the point that the Creator of the Universe is Impeccable and we can see His Perfection in His creation. The Book sent by such Perfect Creator has to be perfect. Having said that, it is up to us, anyone of us, to read the Book and see for ourselves the truth of this statement.

Verse 5 of this Surah has frequently been misinterpreted giving the impression as if there are some invisible creatures, jinns and satans who ascend to the heaven and try to listen to God's secret conference with angels. Then missiles in the form of meteorites are thrown upon them. This fallacy arises from the Biblical and fabricated Hadith concept of God sitting on a Throne in the

heavens. According to the Qur'an God is everywhere. He is High Above anthropomorphism (a physical form). And Satan is nothing but our own selfish desire. Satans are people who succumb to their selfish desire or incite others into wrongdoing, and JINNS denote the uncivilized nomads living distant from INS, the urban people. Contrary to the Bible, the Qur'an does not acknowledge the existence of any DEMONS either.

It is tragic that the ancient and the modern commentators of the Qur'an have only rarely been able to free their minds of the Israelite, or the Judeo-Christian traditions. Furthermore, they disregard a reported saying of the exalted Prophet, "La Ghoul" = There is no such thing as demons, witches, Dracula, evil spirits, mysterious beings possessing or harassing the humans.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

67:1 Eternally Blessed is He in Whose hand is the Supreme Kingdom of the Universe, and He is the Powerful Designer of His Laws for everything.

67:2 He has created death and life to distinguish for yourselves who would do better.

[The real existence on earth is of the one who benefits humankind 13:17. Men and women who create balance in the society, help the needy, and strive for the betterment of humanity with their God-given resources of wealth and person, advance their "Selves". Such men and women have made themselves eligible for the higher form of life in Paradise, attaining immortality. Men and women who fail to develop their "Selves", find the Insurmountable Barrier in front of their "Selves". This lack of progression makes them eligible only for mere survival in Hellfire. Life without progress is a hell in itself 11:7, 18:7]

The Almighty, the Absolver of imperfections, has designed this System in His Infinite Wisdom.

67:3 He has created seven Cosmic Systems in great harmony. Look! No fault will you see in the creation of the Beneficent. And turn your vision upon it once more. Can you see any flaw?

67:4 Then look again and yet again, and every time your vision will fall back upon you, dazzled and defeated.

67:5 And indeed, We have beautified the sky of the world with shining lamps. And made them objects of futile guesses for the satans. (15:17, 37:6-9, 72:8) And for them We have prepared the doom of blazing flames.

[Astrologers, fortune-tellers, clairvoyants, mystics, and Sufis who, for selfish gains, claim knowledge of the Unseen and the future, are either themselves deceived or deceive others. 'Rajm' also denotes speaking out of conjecture like throwing stones randomly, or shooting in the dark]

67:6 Suffering in Hell awaits all who thus blaspheme against their Sustainer. What a miserable destination!

67:7 When they are flung into Hell, they will hear and feel its fury as it fumes.

67:8 As if it would burst with rage. Whenever a group is cast in it, the guardians of Hell will ask them, "Did you not receive a Warner?"

67:9 They will say, "Yes, verily, a Warner did come to us but we denied him saying that Allah has not revealed anything! You are but lost in a great error."

67:10 And they will say, "If we really listened and used our sense, we would not be among the dwellers of the Flames." (7:179).

67:11 They will acknowledge that they did trail behind in humanity. Thus, far removed are the dwellers of the Flames from Divine Grace.

67:12 Those who fear violating the Laws of their Lord even in privacy, for them is the protection of forgiveness and a Great Reward. (They keep in mind that every action has a consequence, even though it may not be immediately apparent).

67:13 Whether you hide your word and thought or make it known, behold, He is the Knower of what is in the hearts. (‘Qaul’ = Word = Saying = Utterance. It also signifies thought, opinion, belief and idea).

67:14 How could it be that He Who has created all should not know all things and events? For, He is the Unfathomable, the Aware.

67:15 He it is Who has made the earth humble at your service. So move through its tracts and enjoy His provisions. Bear in mind that the revival to New Life will again be in His Dominion.

67:16 Can you ever feel secure that the High Sovereign will not cause the earth to swallow you up when it begins to quake? (Life of the world is too brief and unpredictable to postpone the good until tomorrow 67:21, 67:30, 80:25).

67:17 Or can you ever feel secure that the High Sovereign will not let loose on you a deadly hurricane? So that you shall know how My disapproval was.

67:18 And verily nations before them rejected, then, how awesome was My rejection of them!

67:19 Have they, then, never seen the birds above them spreading their wings and drawing them in? Nothing upholds them but the Beneficent - for, verily, He is ever Seer of all things.

67:20 Nay, who is there besides the Beneficent, that could be an army unto you to shield and help you? They who deny this truth, are but lost in self-deception.

67:21 Who is there to provide for you if He should withhold His providence? Nay, they are victims of their own pride and hatred (for the poor).

67:22 Is the one who goes prone on his face close to the ground (like an earthworm), better guided or one who walks straight on the Straight Path?

67:23 Say, "He it is Who brought you into being and gave you hearing, sight and the faculty of understanding. But how seldom are you grateful by way of using them to full potential!”

67:24 Say, "He it is Who has multiplied you through the earth, and to Him shall you be gathered." (You will always remain within His Supreme Kingdom 23:79).

67:25 But they say, "When will this promise be fulfilled if you are men of truth?"

67:26 Say, "This knowledge rests with Allah alone and I am only a plain Warner."

67:27 But when they see it close at hand, grieved will be the faces of the rejecters, and they will be told, "This it is which you were calling for."

67:28 Say (O Messenger), "Have you ever thought? Whether Allah causes me and my companions to perish or embraces us in His Grace, who will protect the rejecters from the doom of suffering?"

67:29 Say, "He is the Beneficent. In Him we believe and in Him we place our trust, (so our Mission will succeed). And soon you will come to know who it is that is in obvious error."

67:30 Say, "Do you see? If all your water were to vanish into the earth, who, then, could bring you fresh water springs?" (56:63-74, 67:21. Likewise, who can bestow upon you the graceful Spring of guidance but Allah?)

**Surah 68 – Al-Qalam – The Pen**

[Author’s note] This is the 68th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 52 brief verses.

No Messenger ever asked of his people any wages.

Allah in His Infinite Mercy, grants the individuals and nations a period of Respite to mend their behavior before they meet chastisement.

Verses 68:10-16 are traditionally made to refer to a particular enemy of the exalted Prophet. But the Qur’anic verses are timeless and must not be tied and thus limited to the conjecture of ‘Shaan-e-Nuzul’ (Circumstance of the revelation of a particular verse). This practice not only limits the Message but, furthermore, becomes an issue of futile argumentation among the exponents.

This Qur’an is a Reminder that can give eminence to all nations.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

68:1 N. Nun. The Inkpot. And the Pen, and all that they write, stand witness. (The high domain of knowledge will bear out that):

68:2 You (O Messenger), by the Grace of your Lord, are not a madman.

68:3 And, behold, yours will be an everlasting reward.

68:4 For, verily, you are of the noblest moral character!

68:5 And soon you will see and they will see.

68:6 Which of you is the demented. (Outstanding knowledge plus sublime character can only be compatible with a great mind).

68:7 Verily, your Lord knows best him who strays from His Way, and He knows best those who are rightly guided.

68:8 Hence, pay no heed to the rejecters.

68:9 They wish that you strike a deal with them so that they can strike a deal (and compromise on a middle grounds between Truth and Falsehood 10:15, 11:113, 17:74).

68:10 - And yield not to any petty oath-monger. (Repetitious swearing hurts the credibility of a person).

68:11 - Or to a defamer that goes about spreading slander.

68:12 - Or to a withholder of the good and of wealth, trespasser of values, low in virtue.

68:13 - Or to one greedy to the extent of insensitivity, and, in addition,

- worthless to the society.

[‘Zanama’ = Folds of skin beneath the ears of a goat that serve no known practical purpose. ‘Zanim’ = A man worthless to the society]

68:14 - Or he who because of his riches and party,

68:15 - Says, “Fables of ancient times,” whenever Our Messages are conveyed to him.

68:16 - We shall brand such a person with manifest disgrace! ('Branding the snout' alludes to bringing to visible disgrace a person who chooses to live at the subhuman level).

68:17 Behold, We have tried such people as We tried the owners of the garden who swore that they would pluck its fruit in the morning. (18:32-44).

68:18 And made no exception (for the needy poor).

68:19 Then a tornado from your Lord struck it while they slept.

68:20 So that by the morning it was barren, bleak.

68:21 Now, in the morning, they called out unto one another.

68:22 "Go early to your field if you want to pick the fruit."

68:23 So they went off whispering unto one another.

68:24 "Let not a single poor come near you today."

68:25 And early they went strong in their resolve (to keep the poor away).

68:26 But when they saw it, they said, "Behold, we have lost our way."

68:27 (Then they realized), "Ah! Now we are destitute."

68:28 Said the most balanced among them, "Did I not tell you – why did you not work aright (thinking of the poor)?" ('Sabh' = Swim in strides = Work hard = Labor for a noble cause).

68:29 They said, "Glorified is our Lord! Verily, it is we who have been offenders." (Refusing the Divine Right of the needy).

68:30 And then they confronted one another, blaming.

68:31 They said, "Oh, woe unto us! We were trespassers of goodness."

68:32 It may be that our Lord grants us something better than this. Behold, we turn to our Lord affectionately.

[This was an example that only the System of life based on collective good shall endure. Allah does not punish people out of rage, and reward and punishment are built-in in our own actions]

68:33 Such is the suffering! But far greater is the suffering of the Hereafter - if they knew it.

68:34 Behold, for those who walk aright are Gardens of Bliss with their Lord.

68:35 Shall We, then, treat those who submit (to Our Laws) like the guilty?

68:36 What is the matter with you? How do you judge (the right and wrong and their logical consequence)?

68:37 Or do you have a scripture wherein you learn -

68:38 That you shall indeed get the outcome of your choosing?

68:39 Or have you a solemn oath, binding on Us till Resurrection Day, that yours shall be all that you order?

68:40 Ask them which of them guarantees it.

68:41 Do they have 'partners'? Then let them bring their 'partners' if they are truthful.

68:42 On the Day when they are confronted with the stark reality and they are summoned to prostrate, they shall not be able to prostrate. (It will be too late to submit).

68:43 Their eyes drooping, humiliation will overwhelm them! And they had been repeatedly invited to prostrate when they were able.

68:44 So leave unto Me him who denied this Message(39:23). We shall lead them step by step to a reprisal from directions they had never conceived.

68:45 Though I give them respite, behold, unwavering is My Plan.

68:46 Or is it that you ask them any reward so that they are burdened?

68:47 Or is it that theirs is the future that they have written down?

68:48 (O Prophet) Go ahead steadfastly in establishing your Lord's Command. And be not like him (Jonah) of the fish who cried out in distress. (21:87, 37:139).

68:49 If it were not for the Bliss of his Lord, he would have been cast into the wilderness and in the wilderness of thought. (37:146).

68:50 But his Lord had elected him and included him among those who have worked to actualize their 'Self'.

68:51 And behold, those who deny the Truth, offend you (O Prophet) with their eyes when they hear the Reminder. And they say, "Behold, he is a madman."

68:52 Nay, this Reminder is a giver of eminence to all nations.

**Surah 69 – Al-Haqqah – The Inevitable Reality**

[Author's note] This is the 69th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 52 brief verses. Many verses in the Qur'an pertain simultaneously to this life as well as to the next life. For example, QIYAMAH, Resurrection or Apocalypse involves a great Cosmic Metamorphosis. And Qiyamah or Resurrection also refers to humanity standing at its feet or to awakening of an individual or nation. In the first instance 'mountains' would be understood in the literal sense. In the second instance 'mountains' would mean the great ones or the leaders. Life here and life there is a process continuum.

Many previously given concepts are presented herein again in different shades of eloquence and meaning. Again, it is always helpful to bear in mind that many verses portraying Paradise and Hell, Cosmic events and great revolutions in this world easily apply to both situations.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

69:1 The Inevitable Reality.

69:2 How awesome is the Inevitable Reality?

69:3 Ah, what can give you an idea what the Inevitable Reality is!

69:4 Thamud and Aad denied the oncoming Uproar.

69:5 As for Thamud, they were destroyed by a thunderous blast.

69:6 And as for 'Ad, they were annihilated with raging hurricane winds.

69:7 Which He made it rage upon them for seven long nights and eight long days. Such that you could imagine those people as uprooted hollow palm-trunks. (54:20).

69:8 Now, can you see any remnants of them?

69:9 And there came Pharaoh, and many others before him, and the townships that were overthrown. All of them committed fault upon fault.

69:10 For, they disobeyed the respective Messenger of their Lord. Consequently, He grasped them with a firm grasp.

69:11 Behold! When waters topped the levels, We carried you upon the watercraft.

[‘You’ denotes the remote ancestors of the Israelites and the Arabs. It also indicates ‘Your brethren in Faith’ among Noah’s people]

69:12 (These events are conveyed to you) so that We might make it a lesson for you, and that any attentive ear might take it to memory.

69:13 Hence, think when the Trumpet will be sounded with a single Blast.

69:14 And the earth will be moved and the mountains and struck with a stroke.

69:15 Then, on that Day when the Episode will come to pass.

69:16 And when the sky will be rent asunder, such that frail will it be that Day.

69:17 The Universal Laws will be summoned around and eight specific Divine Attributes will, that Day, bear your Lord’s Throne of Supreme Control above them.

69:18 On the Day you will be brought, not a single hidden deed of yours will remain hidden.

69:19 Then he who is given his record in his right hand, will say, “Come all of you around! Read this my record.

69:20 Behold, I always thought that my account would be given to me.”

69:21 Then he will be in a state of Bliss.

69:22 In a lofty Garden.

69:23 With its fruit at hand.

69:24 Eat and drink gleefully for what you did in the days past.

69:25 But as for him who is given his record in his left hand, he will say, "Oh, I wish I was never given my record.

69:26 And knew not my account.

69:27 Oh, could this be the end of me!

69:28 Of no help is my wealth.

69:29 Vanquished is all my control."

69:30 Take him and shackle him! (Halt from further development).

69:31 And then hurl him in the blazing flame of his deeds.

69:32 And then make him a link in the very long chain of people like him. (Seventy cubits = Very long).

69:33 Behold, he failed to grace himself with faith in Allah, the Tremendous.

69:34 And arranged not to feed the needy.

69:35 And so, he has no friend here today.

69:36 Nor any food but the discarded shreds he gave to others.

69:37 Which none eat but those who faulted through life.

69:38 But nay, I call to witness all that you see (that actions have consequences of their like).

69:39 And all that you see not (the subtle progression of the Law of Requital).

69:40 Behold, this is indeed a revealed Word in the dialect of a noble Messenger.

69:41 This is not the speech of a poet. Seldom do you reach conviction.

69:42 Nor is it the word of a soothsayer. Little of your intellect do you bring to use.

69:43 It is a Revelation from the Lord of the Worlds.

69:44 And if he had ascribed his sayings unto Us.

69:45 We would have taken him by the right hand.

69:46 And would have cut off his Aorta.

[‘Wateen’ = Artery of the heart = Life line = Life-artery = Strength = Revelation to the Prophet. This implies that no true Prophet could possibly propagate falsehood]

69:47 And none of you could stop Us from doing that.

69:48 But, verily, it is a Reminder and a giver of eminence to those who wish to walk aright.

69:49 And behold, We know well that among you will be deniers.

69:50 And behold, this denial will become a source of regret for the rejecters.

69:51 For, verily, it is Truth Absolute.

69:52 Therefore, work hard to manifest the Glory of your Lord’s Tremendous Name.

**Surah 70 – Al-Ma’arij – The Stairways of Ascent**

[Author’s note] This is the 70th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 44 verses. Allah is the Supreme Controller of the Universe. Individuals and nations can attain to great heights in both lives if they live by His Laws in this world.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

70:1 A questioner might ask about the catastrophe that is bound to fall.

70:2 Upon those who deny the Truth. None can repel it.

70:3 From Allah, Lord of the Stairways of Ascent.

70:4 The Universal forces and the Divine Energy ascend unto Him in a Day the measure of which is fifty thousand years.

[All things in the Universe evolve in stages to fulfill the Divine Plan. Some of these stages take one thousand years each, and others fifty thousand years by the human calendar.

The Big Picture of the Qur’an does allude to the Divine Plan. As I understand, it is the origination of a brand new Cosmos in which all things including the humans will be brought into being in incredibly higher forms, and the evolution will go on indefinitely.

Allah stresses upon us again and again to prime our “Selves” for further development in the life to come and achieve true Immortality, the Paradise, the Eternal Bliss. That contrasts with mere survival where there is no progress. An existence without progress is worse than death, and the Qur’an terms it Hell. The only way to prime our “Selves” is to be of benefit to Allah’s creation. 22:47, 32:5, 35:10, 78:38, 97:4.

References too many to enumerate, but any student of the Qur'an who bears in mind the development or actualization of the "Self" will find this point highlighted on every page and every Surah in the Mighty Book.

No amount and no kind of ritualism can help that 'priming' of the 'Self'. And, according to the Qur'an, no nation ever faced decline or annihilation for a deficiency or lack of rituals]

70:5 Therefore, you shall do your part with a most handsome steadfastness.

70:6 Behold, they see it far away.

70:7 But We see it near.

70:8 The Day when the sky will melt away.

70:9 And the mountains will become as flakes of wool.

70:10 And a friend will not ask about his friend.

70:11 Even though they will be within sight of one another. The guilty will desire to give his own children to ransom himself from suffering of the Day.

70:12 And his wife and his brother.

70:13 And his whole family and the tribe that raised and sheltered him.

70:14 And all who lived on earth – all of them if then it might save him.

70:15 But nay! Behold, it is a raging flame.

70:16 That burns all coverings.

70:17 It calls him who turned and fled from Truth.

70:18 And hoarded wealth, and withheld it.

70:19 Verily, man is created with an anxious disposition.

70:20 Nervous when harm touches him.

70:21 And niggardly when good reaches him.

70:22 Except the MUSALLEEN. (Who are Musalleen)?

70:23 ----- Those who always follow the Divine System.

70:24 ----- And in whose wealth and possessions is a KNOWN RIGHT.

70:25 For him who asks for help, and for him who is deprived.

70:26 ----- (And Musalleen are) those who have conviction in the Day of Judgment. And hence, in the Law of Recompense.

70:27 ----- And those who are fearful of their Lord's Law of Requital.

70:28 ----- (They know that) Verily, their Lord's Law of Requital makes no exceptions, so that none can feel secure.

70:29 ----- Those men and women who preserve their chastity.

70:30 ----- They have intimate relations only with their spouses – that is, those who are rightfully theirs through wedlock. For such relationship they are free of blame. ('Aw' = Or = That is = And. 23:5-7).

70:31 But anyone who seeks beyond this, those are the transgressors.

70:32 ----- (And Musalleen are those) who guard their trusts and duties assigned to them, and their pledges, as a shepherd guards his flock.

70:33 ----- And those who are truthful in witness and stand by their testimony.

70:34 ----- And those who consolidate and protect the Divine System.

70:35 ----- (Musalleen are the ones who collectively build it on earth and) inherit the Paradise in the Hereafter. Such are the honored ones.

70:36 What, then, is the matter with the rejecters that they rush to and fro before you, confused? (Instead of joining hands).

70:37 On the right and on the left, in groups!

70:38 Does everyone of them hope to enter the Garden of Bliss with this attitude?

70:39 Nay! Verily, they know full well what potentials We created them with.

70:40 But nay! I call to Witness the Lord of all points in the East and all points in the West, behold, We are Able -

70:41 To replace them by others better than they are. For, there is nothing to prevent Us.

70:42 Let them chat and play until they meet their Day which they are promised.

70:43 The Day they shall come forth in haste from their dead states, as if racing toward a goal post.

70:44 With their eyes subdued in shame, humiliation overwhelming them. Such is the Day which they were promised again and again.

**Surah 71 – Nuh – Noah**

[Author’s note] This is the 71st Surah of the Qur'an. It has 28 verses. It is a common misconception that Adam was the first Prophet of God. Adam is an allegory for mankind (2:30-39, 7:10-26, 15:28-33, 20:116-121, 30:20, 38:71-73). It is obvious from the Qur'an that Noah was the first ever Prophet of God (6:85-87).

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

71:1 Behold, We sent Noah unto his nation, “Warn your people before an awful doom comes to them.”

71:2 He said, "O My people! Behold, I am a plain Warner to you.

71:3 That you serve Allah and be mindful of Him. Now, do pay heed to me.

71:4 He will then protect you from the detriment of trailing behind in humanity and respite you until a term appointed. Behold, when the term appointed by Allah comes, it cannot be delayed – if you but knew this (Law)." [Term appointed = As long as you walk aright]

71:5 He said, "My Lord! Verily, I have been calling unto my people night and day.

71:6 But my call only increases their fleeing.

71:7 And, behold, whenever I call unto them to be forgiven by You, they thrust their fingers in their ears - and veil themselves in their garments. And they persist in this behavior glorifying themselves in pride. (11:5).

71:8 And, behold, then I called unto them aloud.

71:9 And, behold, I addressed them in gatherings and spoke to them individually in private."

71:10 And I have said, “Seek forgiveness of your Lord. Behold, He is ever Forgiving.

71:11 He will shower upon you heavenly blessings.

71:12 And will help you with goods and riches and flourishing families, and will grant you gardens and will bestow upon you flowing rivulets."

[‘Banin’ = Sons = Children = Tribal unity and strength = Party = Flourishing families. Forgiveness in the context indicates halting the behavior that is detrimental to the society, and turning to Divine Guidance in order to protect themselves from the logical harmful consequences]

71:13 What is the matter with you that you seek not for dignity toward Allah? (And His Laws can give you dignity and eminence).

71:14 Knowing that He has created you in successive stages.

71:15 Don't you realize how Allah has created the seven heavens in great harmony?

71:16 And made the moon a light therein, and made the sun a radiant lamp.

71:17 And Allah has caused you to grow as a growth from the earth.

71:18 Then He returns you into the earth and He will bring you forth again, a new bringing.

71:19 And Allah has made the earth a wide expanse for you.

71:20 That you may travel thereon on spacious valley-ways."

71:21 Then Noah said, "My Lord! Behold, they have opposed me throughout, for they follow him whose wealth and children have led him increasingly into ruin.

71:22 And they plot tremendous schemes.

71:23 And keep telling one another, “Do not abandon your gods! And forsake not Wadd, nor Suw’a, nor Yaghuth and Ya’uq and Nasr."

[They had set up idols Wadd: the god of masculinity - Suw’a: the goddess of femininity - Yaghuth: the lion god of power - Ya'uq: the horse god for travel and battle - and Nasr: the eagle god for flying in the news of the Unseen]

71:24 And they have thus led a great many people astray (and divided them). And You let go more and more astray those who displace Truth with falsehood."

71:25 And so, because of faults upon faults, they were drowned, then made to enter a Fire. And they found out that they had no helpers besides Allah. (Made to enter: Before Allah is Eternal Now. The past tense also indicates the inevitable outcome).

71:26 And Noah said, "My Lord! Leave not any of these rejecters to dwell in this valley.

71:27 If you should leave them, they will mislead Your servants and they will only beget division and ingratitude.

71:28 My Lord! Grant unto me the protection of forgiveness and unto my parents and whoever enters my house in Faith, and unto all the believing men and the believing women (of all times). And increase the oppressors in nothing but ruin of their evil schemes."

**Surah 72 – Al-Jinn – The Unseen Beings**

[Author’s note] This is the 72nd Surah of the Qur'an. It has 28 verses. The term ‘Jinn’ is often misunderstood. It is supposed that they are unseen fiery creatures that live in the earth and in the atmosphere and that they can possess people. The Qur’an does not condone the existence of any such thing as ‘demons’. And there is a reported saying of the exalted Prophet, “La Ghoul’. (There is no such thing as ghoul, demons, Dracula, vampires, fairies, witches and wizards etc). All such things fall into the domain of superstition.

“And the Jinns He has created from a confused flame of fire (with a fiery disposition 55:15).

(References to Jinns: 2:102,6:76, 6:100, 6:112, 6:128-130, 7:12, 7:38, 8:27, 11:119, 15:17, 15:27, 21:82, 32:13, 34:12-14, 37:158, 38:76, 46:29-32, 55:15, 72:1-15, 75:2-6, 114:6).

‘Jinn’ in fact implies something hidden, rarely seen, hence, after using TASREEF, Al-Jinn = The nomads. ‘Jannah’ from the same root word means a garden hidden in foliage. When the ‘Jinns’ or the nomads move to dwell in towns and become civilized, they are referred to as ‘Ins’ = Urbanites.

Among the verses referred to above, Jinn, at times, denotes the hidden evil prompting that goes on in the human mind. In the sense of flashes of evil prompting, Jinn can be understood as Satan in minor forms. Satan = Selfish or rebellious desire, works in concert with evil emotions which have been described as being fiery in the JAHILIYAH poetry. 'Emotions being fiery' stands up to reason.

Verse 21:37 convincingly shows what the ‘creation of Jinn out of fire’ actually means. Using exactly the same terms ‘khuliq’ and ‘min’ it states “KHULIQAL insanu MIN ‘ajal”. Literally that would translate as: He created man out of haste. Whereas the clear understanding is: Man has been created with a tendency to be hasty and looking for instant gains or results.

Such is the case with “KHULAQAL jaanna MIN marijin MIN naar”. He created the nomads with a fiery disposition.

This Surah beautifully illustrates another very important point. Wherever in the Qur'an we come across the utterance or behavior of people that is not condemned by other verses, it stands confirmed by Allah as Right and Truthful]

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

72:1 Say (O Prophet): It has been revealed to me that a tribe of nomads listened, and then they said, “Behold, we have heard a marvelous Recital.” (46:29).

72:2 “It shows the way to Enlightenment, so we have come to believe in it. And we shall never again ascribe a partner unto our Lord.”

72:3 “And that Exalted in Glory is our Lord. No wife has He ever taken nor a son.”

72:4 “And that the foolish among us uttered such outrageous lies about Allah.”

72:5 “And behold, we used to think that people, whether civilized or uncivilized, would never utter a lie about Allah.”

72:6 “And indeed some people of towns used to seek shelter with some of the nomads and increased them in confusion.”

72:7 “And they thought as you nomads thought that Allah would never again send forth anyone.” (As His Messenger, and so, the claimants of the occult sciences would carry on with their deceptions).

72:8 “And we tried to feel the heaven but found it well attended by mighty guards and flames.” (The shining Knowledge in the Qur’an dismisses all conjecture of the astrologers, fortune-tellers, and other claimants of occult sciences).

72:9 (The nomads continued), “And we used to sit on places listening to the 'heavenly news'. But now whoever listens will find a flame waiting for him.” (The brilliant flame of Divine Revelation is now ever-ready to torch the conjecture of the astrologers 37:6-9, 67:5).

72:10 “And we know not whether harm is intended for the inhabitants of the earth, or whether their Lord wills for them Enlightenment.” (It remains to be seen how people will react to this revolutionary Message).

72:11 (The nomads continued their conversation), “And some of us are righteous and others are far from that, and we follow varying paths.”

72:12 “Now we know that wherever we are in the earth, we cannot defy the Laws of Allah nor can we flee to escape.”

72:13 “And as soon as we heard the Enlightenment, we believed in it. And whoever chooses to be graced with belief in his Lord, need not fear a diminished return, nor unfairness.”

72:14 “And some of us have submitted (to Allah) while there are others who are taking a middle course. And whoever submits – such are they who have resolved to get enlightened.”

72:15 “And those who maintain a middle course (between the Right and the Wrong) – they are but fire-wood for the Hell."

72:16 (Such was their conversation.) Now, if they take an unwavering stand on the Highest Discipline, We will shower them with abundant bounties. (‘Tareeqah’ = Layer upon layer arranged in great harmony = Discipline = Way = Course. ‘At-Tareeqah’ = The Highest Discipline = Divine Revelation. 'Ma' = Water, heavenly blessings = Bounties).

72:17 That We might test them (let them try their own mettle) thereby. And whoever turns away from his Sustainer’s Reminder, He will cause him to undergo an ever-increasing torment. (20:124).

72:18 And know that all Masjids are for Allah. (Adoration, prostration, submission is due to Allah alone). Hence, invoke not anyone along with Allah. (9:17). (‘Masjid’ = Mosque = Places of worship = Acts of Prostration = Ways of Adoration = Obedience of Divine Commands = Centers of administering the Divine System).

72:19 Yet whenever a servant of Allah stands up with invitation to Him, they crowd on him in hostility (22:72).

72:20 Say, "I call unto my Lord alone and associate no one with Him (heed no one against His Laws)."

72:21 Say, "Behold, I do not own the power to harm you or enforce enlightenment upon you."

72:22 Say, "Behold, No one can shelter (even) me from (the consequences of violating the Laws of) Allah, nor can I find a hide-out from Him."

72:23 "If I fail to convey to people what I receive from Allah and make His Messages known. Whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger, behold, for him is Hellfire, to abide therein forever."

72:24 "Until they see what they are promised. And so, soon will they find out who is really helpless and counts for less!"

72:25 Say, "I know not whether the promise made to you is near or if my Lord will delay it."

72:26 The Knower of the Unseen and the future, and He discloses to none His secrets.

72:27 Except unto a Messenger whom He has elected. And then He ensures that the Revelation is guarded in his life and after him. (15:9).

72:28 That He may make manifest that it is indeed their Lord's Messages (and nothing else) that these Messengers deliver. For, He it is Who encompasses all the Revelation they have, and takes account of all things.

**Surah 73 – Al-Muzammil – The Great Caravan Leader**

[Author's note] This is the 73rd Surah of the Qur'an. It has 20 verses. 'Zameel' = A close companion. 'Tazmeel' = Selecting the best companions. Al-Muzammil denotes the most competent selector of virtuous human beings. He admits the best into his company and takes them along toward a Noble Mission. He is a great leader.

Unfortunately, Al-Muzammil has been given a very feeble translation in most works as someone who is shivering and covering himself in a blanket! How do such grievous insults endure? Because of the conjectural drama of "Shane Nuzool". Historians and traditionalists first come up with or follow a fabricated account of some event that "caused the revelation" of such and such verse. Then they try to confirm the meaning of that particular verse to that supposed "event". This is only one of the ways the Qur'an is made MAHJOOR, left alone as a disabled slave of tradition!

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

73:1 O You the great selector of companions, the best caravan leader!

73:2 Stay vigilant even by night, and never fall short on it -

[As Head of the State the Prophet is responsible for arranging peace and security for all citizens (17:79, 76:26). 'Illa' here, as in many other verses, represents 'never' - and not 'except' (11:107-108, 55:33, 87:6-7). "Al-Manar" vol 1. p. 414]

73:3 - Half an effort or less than perfect.

73:4 Or, you shall increase it whenever warranted. And convey the Qur'an in a calm distinctive manner, stage by stage.

73:5 Behold, We are charging you with a substantial Declaration (a Lofty Mission).

73:6 Verily, the vigil of the night impresses the minds most strongly, and the speech is most upright. (Mutual consultation with your companions is more effectively done at night).

73:7 Behold, by day you are engaged in continued strife.

73:8 Keep eminent the Name of your Lord and detach yourself from needless pursuits for His sake.

73:9 Lord of the East and the West! There is no god but He. Hence, hold on to Him as Dispenser of affairs.

73:10 And endure with patience whatever people may say, and leave them with a noble leaving.

73:11 And leave the deniers of the Truth unto Me – these ‘masters of luxury’. And you give them some time.

73:12 Behold, with Us are shackles and a blazing Fire.

73:13 And a choking food and an awful doom.

73:14 The Day is coming when the masses and the wealthy tyrants will shake, and the leaders will become heaps of sand.

73:15 Behold, We have sent unto you a Messenger to be a witness concerning you, just as We had sent unto Pharaoh a Messenger.

73:16 But Pharaoh rebelled against the Messenger, whereupon We seized him with a calamitous seizing.

73:17 So, how, if you keep rejecting, will you guard yourselves on a Day which will turn children gray. (A Day of horrifying events).

73:18 The very sky will then be rent asunder. (The arrogant leaders will be scattered). His Promise always come to pass.

73:19 Behold, this Qur'an is a Reminder, a Giver of eminence. Now, whoever wills' let him set out on a Way to his Lord.

73:20 Behold, (O Messenger!) Your Lord is fully Aware (that you are dedicated to your Mission). There are nights when you stay up working two thirds, one half, or one third of the night as do your companions. But Allah has designed night and day. You and your companions cannot over-work indefinitely. So He turns to you in kindness. (He does not ordain for you hardship). Inculcate, then, as much of the Qur'anic teachings in their hearts as you may do with ease. He knows that among you are sick people, and others have to earn their living and travel for it. And those who have to

fight in the Cause of Allah. Recite and convey the Qur'an, then, at ease. And establish the Divine System and set up the Just Economic Order. And lend unto Allah a goodly loan. Whatever good you send forth for your 'Selves' you will find with Allah, better and more excellent in reward. And seek forgiveness of Allah. Behold, Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

## Surah 74 – Al-Mudathir – Founder of the Benevolent Order

[Author's note] This is the 74th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 56 verses. Like the previous Surah, 'Al-Mudathir' is usually given a very feeble meaning unbecoming of the exalted Prophet - that Al-Mudatthir is the man who cloaks himself in hiding. Al-Mudathir is in fact a title of great honor.

Mudaththir signifies a man who sets things in order. It also indicates a man of impeccable character. In addition, it refers to a fearless rider who jumps upon a moving horse. Keeping all these meanings in mind Al-Mudaththir is the title of Muhammad Sall-Allahu alaihe wa-Sallam. A man of flawless character who has been entrusted with setting the house of humanity to order. And he will do it fast by way of revolution (jumping on the moving horse). The matchless personality of the exalted Prophet was entrusted with establishing a most Benevolent Social Order in the world. He achieved the results with lightening speed and the entire humanity since then has been moving in the direction of the Qur'anic Principles, consciously or unconsciously.

This Surah has the characteristic of embracing almost all the basic tenets of Islam, giving us a glimpse of the Big Picture of the Qur'an.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

74:1 O You founder of the most Benevolent Order!

74:2 Rise up to the occasion and post danger signs on the highway of life.

74:3 Establish the Greatness of your Lord on earth!

74:4 Keep a meticulous character! (Literally, purify your garments).

74:5 Leave alone the opponents.

74:6 And give your wealth and person selflessly (30:39, 76:9).

74:7 Steadfastly for your Sustainer.

74:8 For when the Trumpet will sound.

74:9 That will be that Day – A Day of hardship.

74:10 Not of ease, for all who deny the Truth.

74:11 Leave Me alone to deal with him whom I have created alone.

74:12 And then granted him abundant wealth and resources. (73:11).

74:13 And children and party abiding in his presence.

74:14 And made life comfortable for him like a cradle.

74:15 But he keeps increasing in greed, desiring more and more.

74:16 Nay! Behold, he has been a stubborn opponent of Our Revelations.

74:17 I will cause him to walk an exhausting uphill climb.

74:18 For, behold, he thought, and he designed.

74:19 And thus he destroys himself, how he designs.

74:20 Again, he destroys himself, how he designs.

74:21 And then he looked around.

74:22 And then he frowned and glared.

74:23 And then he turned away in pride.

74:24 And said, "All this is a remnant of ancient magic.

74:25 This is nothing but the speech of a human."

74:26 I shall soon cast him into Saqar.

74:27 Ah, what will convey unto you what Saqar is!

74:28 A Fire that lets not live and lets not die. (Fire of Regret).

74:29 Visibly written on the tablet of an individual's life.

74:30 Over it are nineteen. (On the tablet of human life are inscribed nineteen patterns of behavior that lead to the Fire).

[The nineteen that come to my mind from the Qur'an are as follows: (They could be the tell-tale signs – "visibly" written on the tablet of an individual's life. Of course, this list of nineteen can be improved with further reflection).

1. Shirk = Associating others with Allah. Accepting human authorities parallel to Divine Revelation. Sectarianism. Idol worship in any form. Being content with man-made systems. Worshiping graves, saints, ancestors or one's own desire. Blind following or accepting religious information without discernment. Failing to use the Divine Word as the Criterion.

2. Ithm = Actions that deplete individual and collective potential. Destroying human lives. Lewd behavior. Discouraging productive work. Causing fear or grief by any means. Indulgence in pursuit of pleasure. (Inner peace, pleasure and contentment are the natural consequence of an upright life).

3. ‘Udwan = Creating wedges of discord between people. Causing dissension. Spreading disorder and corruption. Promoting racial, sectarian and nationalistic hatred.

4. Israf = Wasting resources or one’s own ‘Self’. Crossing limits. Moving away from moderation. Committing excesses in any aspect of life including Religion. Breaking the Bounds of Law and decent behavior given in the Qur’an. Using intoxicants that waste the human 'Self'.

5. M’asiah = Rebelling against Allah and the rightly guided Central Authority. Bloody crimes in the earth. Disruptive behavior. Disobedience of the Word of Allah and the Messenger as embodied in the Qur’an. Gambling and usury.

6. Sayyeh = Destabilizing the lives of others. Failing to fulfill the rights of others. Injustice. Inequity. Deceiving in business or other dealings. Falling short in discharging duties. Favoritism.

7. Zulm = Relegating the Truth or displacing anything from its rightful place. Oppressing people. Violating human rights. Hurting others or one’s own ‘Self’. Doing wrong to Allah's creatures and environment, and to one's own 'Self'. Enslaving bodies and minds.

8. Ifk = Backbiting. Evil scheming. Defaming. Undue criticism. Trying to find fault. Slander. Presenting the 'heard' as 'seen'. Alarmist behavior.

9. Zann = False assumptions about people. Condemnation without investigation. Slander. Falling for superstitions. Belittling the Truth. Following conjecture. Staying out of touch with reality.

10. Jurm = Stealing the fruit of others’ labor. Violating human rights. Being guilty of living subhuman life. Witnessing for falsehood. Depriving others from their rights. Devouring others' possessions. Not giving share where it is due.

11. Takabbur = False pride. Arrogance. Self-glorification. Holding others in contempt. Refusing to learn and unlearn. Insisting on blind following. Refusing to admit fault. Being forward before the Messages of Allah. To shun the Truth. Thinking that 'I know it all'. Holding material goods higher than virtue.

12. Ghill = Harboring malice in the heart. Failing to forgive people. Looking forward to take revenge. Plotting to hurt physically, financially or emotionally. Being hateful. Opposition for the sake of opposition. Incriminating others for personal reasons.

13. Ghadhab = Anger. Letting loose emotions. Succumbing to desire. Yelling at others. Intimidating the weak. Losing self-control. Impulsive attitude.

14. Sharr = Harming others or one’s own self. Weakening the good potential in others. Injuring people physically or emotionally. Harming the society by any means. Bad conduct.

15. Bhukhl = Niggardliness. Hoarding. Withholding own wealth and person from serving humanity. Apathy toward the needy. Not spending wealth and person in the Cause of Allah or on His creatures. Being greedy.

16. Laghw = Wasting precious time. Idle talk. Meaningless assemblies. Conspiring. Senseless play and pastime.

17. Sadd = Barring oneself or others from the Path of Allah. Putting forward human thoughts above or before the Divine Revelation. Hindering immigration from the domain of evil. Antagonizing the Word of God. Presenting falsehood as truth. Misleading people with conjecture. Hindering the way to promote and establish the Qur'anic System of life.

18. Mujaadilah = Argument for the sake of argument. Opposing Divine Messages. Creating disputes and prolonging them. Confusing human thought. Obstructing progress with rhetoric.

19. Kufr = Denial of the Truth. Being ungrateful for blessings. Choosing to live in the darkness of ignorance. Knowingly oppose the Truth. Persisting with ancestral views. Trying to be with the majority without discernment]

74:31 We have appointed only Universal Laws to be the keepers of the Fire. And We have made their number a trial for those who wish to remain in darkness. This admonition should grant certainty to those who received the Scripture before while the believers shall increase in faith. And that the believers and those who have been given the Scripture shall harbor no doubt to this declaration. And the hypocrites and the deniers may say, “What means Allah with such an example?” Thus, Allah lets go astray him who wills to go astray, and guides him who wills to be guided. And no one knows the Forces of your Lord but He. And this Qur'an is naught else than a Reminder to mankind.

74:32 Nay! The Moon stands witness.

74:33 And the Night when it departs.

74:34 And the Dawn as it shines forth.

74:35 Behold, this is one of the Greatest allegories (that the Revolution is coming in all its splendor).

74:36 This is a fore-warning for every human being.

74:37 To everyone of you, whether he chooses to advance or to lag behind.

74:38 Every person is held in pledge for all that he has done. (52:21).

74:39 Except those who have succeeded for being upright. (‘Yameen’ = A metaphor for righteousness and success. They have actualized their “Selves” by doing good to others).

74:40 In Gardens they will ask.

74:41 Of those who used to steal the fruit of others' toil.

74:42 “What has led you into Saqar?” (A Fire that lets not live and lets not die. Fire of Regret 74:28).

74:43 They will reply, "We were not of the Musalleen.”

[Who are Musalleen? 70:22-35.
- Those who always follow the Divine System.
- And in whose wealth and possessions is a KNOWN RIGHT.
- For him who asks for help, and for him who is deprived.
- (And Musalleen are) those who have conviction in the Day of Judgment. And hence, in the Law of Recompense.
- And those who are fearful of their Lord’s Law of Requital.
- (They know that) Verily, their Lord’s Law of Requital makes no exceptions, so that none can feel secure.
- Those men and women who preserve their chastity.
- They have intimate relations only with their spouses – that is, those who are rightfully theirs through wedlock. For such relationship they are free of blame. (‘Aw’ = Or = That is = And. 23:5-7).
- But anyone who seeks beyond this, those are the transgressors.
- (And Musalleen are those) who guard their trusts and duties assigned to them, and their pledges, as a shepherd guards his flock.
- And those who are truthful in witness and stand by their testimony.
- And those who consolidate and protect the Divine System.
- (Musalleen are the ones who collectively build it on earth and) inherit the Paradise in the Hereafter. Such are the honored ones]

74:44 “Neither did we feed the hungry, nor did we take part in helping those who had lost their jobs, those whose businesses had stalled, and those whose hard-earned income was insufficient to meet their basic needs.”

74:45 “And we were among those who used to say what they did not do.”

74:46 “And we used to deny the Day of Judgment and that the Divine System will eventually prevail” (And that Allah’s Law of Requital is totally unbiased and makes no exceptions).

74:47 “Till the inevitable Truth came unto us.”

74:48 Then no mediation of any mediator will help.

74:49 What, then, is the matter with them that they are turning away from a clear Advisory?

74:50 As if they were frightened zebras.

74:51 Fleeing from a lion!

74:52 Nay, each of them wants to be given the scrolls of Revelation personally, unfolded (and spoon-fed).

74:53 Nay, verily, they are oblivious to the Law of Cause and Effect – that every action has its ultimate consequence.

74:54 Nay, behold, this is a clear Advisory.

74:55 So whoever wills may take it to heart.

74:56 But they will not take it to heart except in accordance with Allah's Law of Guidance. (4:88). He is the Source of security, and the Source of forgiveness and protection. (76:30, 81:29).

**Surah 75 – Al-Qiyamah – The Resurrection**

[Author's note] This is the 75th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 40 verses. The Book of Allah emphasizes the unwavering Law of Requital as the pivotal Reality in human lives and in the entire Universe.

"There is a coherent plan in the Universe, though I don't know what it's a plan for." - British astronomer-author, Sir Fred Hoyle.

The Universe has been created to fulfill the Divine Plan the hallmarks of which, according to the Qur'an, appear to be:

1 - All actions have their logical consequences.
2 - All things must become what they are meant to be.
3 - The Almighty Creator will bring into being another Cosmos to replace the one we now see and understand in our limited capacity.
4 - The humans will be given new higher forms.
5 - The evolution of the human "Self" (or 'soul') will continue in the life Hereafter.
6 - The new Cosmos will be even more wondrous.
7 - The life to come will be magnificent beyond our current imagination for those who have tried to develop their personality. It will entail true felicitous immortality with exponentially advanced capabilities. This is termed the Garden or the Paradise and explained in the Qur'an by way of allegories – allegories since the exact comprehension thereof is beyond our current level of understanding. And that is why the life of this world is a Divine Gift and, in comparison, a 'fleeting delight'.
8 – Those who fail to use their God-given potentials to grow their 'Self' will merely survive in a state of 'neither living nor dying'. The Book of Allah calls that state as Hellfire. Once again, it has been described in allegories like all other things belonging to the World of the Unseen.
9 – It is the Mercy of Allah that people will be accountable only for their endeavor, and not for the results they achieve. The individual capacities that God has given them will be duly considered in the Final Judgment. Allah does not task any person beyond his scope and beyond what He has given him.

Qiyamah literally means "Standing up or rising up". Hence, in addition to the Final Resurrection, the Qur'an frequently uses the term to indicate people, nations, and mankind in general standing up on their feet - in terms of establishing the Divine Order or the Kingdom of God on earth. In the same sense it means a Benevolent Revolution.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

75:1 Nay! I call to witness the Day of Resurrection.

[You can see this in your daily lives in the Law of cause and effect, “as you sow so shall you reap”, and in the Law of Recompense. What goes around comes around. And, in how the dead earth comes to new life with rains. Also in your sleep-wake cycle where your consciousness is withdrawn during sleep and restored as you wake up]

75:2 Nay, I call to witness the person who shows remorse after wrongdoing. (12:53. Notice the Law taking the first step instantly).

75:3 Does the human being think that We will not assemble his bones? (36:78, 37:16. Life goes on without its essence, the ‘Self’, undergoing disintegration).

75:4 Yes indeed, Yes, We have the Power to restore even his finger tips with finger prints!

75:5 But man is after subverting his own future.

75:6 (Yet) he asks, “When will this Day of Resurrection be?”

75:7 But when the sight is dazzled.

75:8 And the moon is darkened. (The banner of the Age of Ignorance bearing the moon logo goes down).

75:9 And the sun and the moon are brought together. (Persia and Arabia come under one Rule. Sun being the logo on the Persian banner).

75:10 On that Day man will wonder, "Where to flee!" (In this life and in the life to come. Verses 7-10 could easily allude to the merging of the super power of the times, Persia with the newly enlightened Arabia in 642 C.E., 10 years after the exalted Prophet's death).

75:11 But, nay! No height to mount above the turmoil!

75:12 Unto your Lord that Day is the resting place.

75:13 On the Day when man is apprised of all his acts of commission and omission. (All he has done and left undone. All deeds that advanced him and kept him behind).

75:14 Oh, but man is a telling witness against himself.

75:15 Even though he were to put forward all his excuses.

75:16 (Now whenever you read the verses of the Qur’an) read not in haste stirring your tongue. (20:114).

75:17 Behold, it is up to Us to gather it (in your heart) and the reading of it. (He will bless whatever effort we put into learning it).

75:18 Thus, when We read it, follow you the reading. (Allah has revealed the Qur’an, and bestowed upon us the faculty of understanding, hence, “When We read it.”)

75:19 Then, behold! It is for Us to explain it. (The Qur'an is its own best commentary. It explains itself).

75:20 Nay, but you love instant results.

75:21 And give little thought to the long term. ('Akhirah' = Hereafter = Life to come = Future = Long term = What follows = Subsequent = Enduring. Tomorrow is today's 'Akhira'.)

75:22 Some faces that Day will beam with happiness.

75:23 Looking up to their Lord.

75:24 And some faces on that Day will be despondent.

75:25 Expecting a back breaking calamity.

75:26 Nay, when the last breaths come up to the throat.

75:27 And those around cry, "Is there any charmer?"

75:28 But he knows that this is the parting.

75:29 And it is pang upon pang.

75:30 That day the drive is to your Lord.

75:31 For he neither stood by the Truth, nor did he follow it. ('Sal'= To follow, like the runners-up horse closely follows the winner = To closely follow the Commands of Allah).

75:32 Rather, he used to deny and turn away.

75:33 And then used to walk back to his folk and his ways gleefully.

75:34 This is the most befitting for you - now this is the most befitting.

75:35 Again! This is the most befitting for you - now this is the most befitting. (The impending requital befits the behavior).

75:36 Does man think he will be left alone like a soundless broken musical string?

75:37 Was he not gametes that moved to join?

75:38 Then he became a zygote. And He shaped and fashioned him in due proportion.

75:39 And He has made of humans pairs, male and female.

75:40 Is not He, then, Able to bring the dead to life?

**Surah 76 – Ad-Dahr – The Time**

[Author's note] This is the 76th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 31 verses. This Surah tells us about our creation and evolution, lays down the purpose of our life and clearly shows us the way toward a Destination of Bliss. Many verses herein apply to both lives. Be kind to His creation and Allah will be Kind to you.

This Surah has also been called "Al-Insan" by later historians which, in my opinion, is a needless use of questionable traditions. There are a few other Surahs which have been given dual names and they are pointed out in THE QUR'AN AS IT EXPLAINS ITSELF .

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

76:1 Has there not passed over man an era when he was not even worth mentioning?

76:2 Behold, it is We who have created the human being from marked out cells, male and female gametes, that joined. The We passed him through subtle changes. And then We made him a being endowed with Hearing and Sight.

76:3 Verily, We it is Who have shown him the Way, whether he be grateful or ungrateful.

76:4 Behold, for those who deny the Truth we have readied chains and shackles and a blazing flame. (Chains and shackles of conjecture, blind following and superstition, and the fire of confusion and regret are the logical consequences of relegating the Truth 7:157).

76:5 Behold, the truly virtuous will drink from a cup sweetened with nectar of flowers. ('Kafur' = Camphor = Cool temperament = Nectar from the calyx of grape as it flowers = Sweet and fragrant drink of Divine Bliss).

76:6 A spring whereof the servants of Allah drink – it is they who make it flow in a flow abundant. (The true servants of Allah achieve His blessings of Guidance and all that is good, and share them with fellow human beings).

76:7 They fulfill their vows and pledges and fear the times when chaos and corruption might sweep the society.

76:8 And they feed, for the love of nobility, the indigent, the orphan and the captive.

[They help establish the System where the first ones to receive the provisions of Allah are the ones who are needy, who have lost their jobs, whose lives have stalled, the widows, the orphans, the ones who feel left alone in the society, the captives and those who are stranded in the earth for any reason]

76:9 (They do all this selflessly) saying, "We provide for you for the sake of Allah alone. We want no return from you, not even a word of thanks.

76:10 Behold, we stand in awe of our Lord to ward off the times when the society might become a picture of frown and distress."

76:11 Hence, Allah wards off from them the chaos of those times, and showers on them inner splendor and delight. (‘Yaum’ = Day = Stage = Times = Era = Eventuality = The Resurrection Day).

76:12 And for their steadfastness He rewards them with a Garden of Bliss and garments of silk (honor).

76:13 Relaxing therein on beautiful furnishings, they neither find a hot sun nor chill.

76:14 Pleasant shades close upon them and clusters of fruits reach them low.

76:15 And they are served with goblets of silver and cups of crystal.

76:16 Silver trays shining as crystal - all this design they have determined (with their good deeds).

76:17 And delicious invigorating drinks they shall be given. (43:71, 76:5, 83:27. Camphor: an allegory for cool relaxation, and ginger: warmth and action).

76:18 From therein a spring named Salsabil. The water thereof seeks its own way to them. (88:12. Salsabil = Find your way to them).

76:19 And their children, immortal, playing around, lovely as pearls when you see them.

76:20 And whenever you look around there you see Bliss and a Magnificent Kingdom.

76:21 Upon them will be garments of green silk with gold embroidery, and they will be honored with bracelets of silver. And their Lord will give them pure refreshing drinks.

76:22 Behold! All this is your Reward since your effort has found a befitting Acceptance.

76:23 Behold, We, yes, We have revealed unto you the Qur'an step by step, a Revelation from Us.

76:24 Therefore, hold on to your Lord’s Command unwaveringly. And heed not of them any dragger of progress or devotee of darkness. (‘Athim’ = One who drags or pulls down progress).

76:25 Raise the Name of your Lord morning and evening. (‘Zikr’ = Remembrance = Commemoration = Raise = Celebration = Magnify = Give eminence = Taking to heart = Keeping in mind).

76:26 Adore Him even at night and strive to establish His Glory on earth through long nights (as you do morning and evening).

76:27 Behold, these people love only the instant gains and as a result leave behind a yesterday laden (with transgressions and wasted opportunities of doing good).

76:28 (Who gave them the mind and body to behave the way they choose?) We it is Who have created them, and strengthened their frame. And if We Will, We can replace them entirely with other nations. (Nations who will use their human potentials better).

76:29 Behold, this is an Advisory that whoever wants, may choose a Way to his Lord.

76:30 Yet, you cannot will it unless you align your free will with the Will of Allah. (Guidance can only be achieved according to Divine Laws 4:88). For, behold, Allah is Knower, Wise.

76:31 He admits into His Grace everyone who wills to be admitted. But, for those who wrong their 'Self' by making wrong decisions, He has prepared an awful doom. ('Zulm' = Wrongdoing = Being unjust to others or to one's own 'Self' = Oppression = Relegation of Truth = Displacing anything from its rightful place = Violation of human rights = Transgression).

**Surah 77 – Al-Mursalat – The Messages Sent Forth**

[Author's note] This is the 77th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 50 brief verses. This Surah captivates the heart with sheer eloquence, yet without compromising the Majesty and Power of the Divine Word.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

77:1 Witness are these Messages (to the Sublime Truth), sent forth one after another.

77:2 As they gain strength like a tempest.

77:3 And spread (the Truth) far and wide.

77:4 While distinguishing the Right from Wrong with a clear distinction.

77:5 In order to deliver the Reminder (into the hearts).

77:6 Whether one erases his faults or sees the danger signs. ('Uzr' = Excuse = Justification = Good news = Reasoning = Attempt to get rid of one's shortcomings. 'Nuzr' = Warning = Posting danger signs).

77:7 Behold, all that you are promised in this Writ will come to pass.

77:8 So when the stars lose their luster. (The small groups of opponents fade away).

77:9 And when the sky is rent asunder. (Every high tyrant is decimated).

77:10 And when the mountains are blown away as dust. (The great ones who enslave the weak float around like flakes of wool). (20:105, 56:5).

77:11 And when all Messengers are summoned at the time appointed. (The unanimity of the Message of all Messengers will become evident).

77:12 For what Day is the term delayed?

77:13 For the Day of Decision!

77:14 And what will enlighten you what that Day of Decision is?

77:15 Anguish on that Day for those who deny the Truth in practice! (‘Kizb’ = Lie = Belie = Deny the Truth in practical dealings = Deny by action. ‘Kufr’ = Frank denial in word and action).

77:16 Did We not annihilate the former generations?

77:17 Then We made them followed by later generations.

77:18 Thus do We always deal with the guilty.

77:19 Anguish on that Day for those who deny the Truth in practice!

77:20 Did We not create you from a humble fluid? (How, then, you forget your common origin and being humble to one another?)

77:21 Which We then kept in a safe place. (23:13).

77:22 For a term appointed.

77:23 Thus We have determined (all things). How excellent is Our determining! (Appointing due measure of all things).

77:24 Anguish on that Day for those who deny the Truth in practice!

77:25 Have We not made the earth a vessel -

77:26 Both for the living and the dead? (The cycle of life and death goes on right here. 3:27, 6:95, 10:31, 30:19).

77:27 And placed therein firm lofty mountains (serving as water reservoirs), and given you fresh water to drink.

77:28 Anguish on that Day for those who deny the Truth in practice!

77:29 Walk unto that which you used to belie.

77:30 Walk unto the threefold shadow.

77:31 Giving neither cooling shade nor shelter from the Flame.

77:32 Behold, it throws up sparks huge as castles.

77:33 Moving like the caravans of bright yellow camels.

77:34 Anguish on that Day for those who deny the Truth in practice!

77:35 This is a Day when they are not able to speak.

77:36 Nor will they be allowed to make excuses.

77:37 Anguish on that Day for those who deny the Truth in practice!

77:38 This is the Day of Decision. We have brought you and the generations of old together.

77:39 Now, if you have a trick, try it against Me.

77:40 Anguish on that Day for those who deny the Truth in practice!

77:41 Behold, those who walk aright, are amid shades and springs.

77:42 And fruit as they desire.

77:43 Enjoy, eat and drink. Welcome for what you have accomplished!

77:44 Behold, thus do We reward the doers of good to others.

77:45 Anguish on that Day for those who deny the Truth in practice!

77:46 Behold, you guilty ones! Enjoy and take your ease for a little while.

77:47 Anguish on that Day for those who deny the Truth in practice!

77:48 And now when they are told, “Bow down”, they bow not down! (They do not submit to Divine Commands).

77:49 Anguish on that Day for those who deny the Truth in practice!

77:50 In what Hadith, after this, will they believe?

**Surah 78 – An-Naba – The News**

[Author’s note] This is the 78th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 40 verses. An-Naba means The News. The News given here is that of a Divine Revolution in this world and on the Resurrection Day. The timing of each has been well-appointed but known to Allah alone.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

78:1 What are they asking about?

78:2 About the Great News.

78:3 On which they disagree.

78:4 Nay, they will soon come to know.

78:5 Nay, again, they will soon come to know.

[Man will learn with time that the current Universe is not Eternal and that after the Apocalypse a new Cosmos will be brought into being]

78:6 Did We not make the earth a cradle for you?

78:7 And the mountains as pegs?

78:8 And We have created you in pairs.

78:9 And We have made sleep so that you can rest.

78:10 And We have made the night as a cloak.

78:11 And made the day, life. (‘Ma’ash’ = Economy = Subsistence = All activities of life = The state of living).

78:12 And We have built above you seven Cosmic Systems.

78:13 And We have placed a Dazzling Lamp.

78:14 And We send down from the rainy clouds abundant water.

78:15 Thereby to bring forth grain and plant.

78:16 And gardens of dense foliage.

78:17 Behold, the Day of Decision is a thing appointed.

78:18 A Day when the Trumpet is blown, and you come in throngs.

78:19 When the gates of the sky are flung open. (Mankind learn about the high space).

78:20 And the ‘great ones’ lose power as if they were mirage. (20:105, 56:5, 77:10, 81:3).

78:21 Behold, Hell lurks in ambush.

78:22 A home for the transgressors.

78:23 They will abide in it for ages. (Hell is not forever. Allah’s Grace comes to rescue the dwellers of the Hellfire 6:128, 11:107, 40:12. While the abode of Paradise is Eternal).

78:24 Therein they taste not coolness of comfort nor drink of satisfaction.

78:25 Only burning anguish and ice-cold darkness. (38:37).

78:26 A befitting requital.

78:27 For, behold, they never hoped to be held accountable.

78:28 And they called Our Messages false with an adamant denial.

78:29 But We place on Record everything.

78:30 So, now, taste nothing but increasing punishment.

78:31 Behold, there is supreme fulfillment for those who walk aright.

78:32 Beautiful gardens and vineyards.

78:33 And splendid companions, well-matched. (56:37).

78:34 And a cup of delight overflowing.

78:35 They shall hear no senseless talk, nor falsification therein.

78:36 Reward from your Lord, a generous gift.

78:37 Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that is in between them, the Beneficent. None has the power to lecture Him.

78:38 On the Day when the Divine Energy and the Universal forces stand forth in ranks, none will speak but he whom the Beneficent allows and say only what is right.

78:39 That Day will be the Moment of Truth. So whoever wills, let him take the path that leads toward his Sustainer.

78:40 Behold, We warn you of a retribution near at hand. A Day when every person will see what his own hands have sent forth. And when the denier of the Truth will say, “Oh, I wish I were mere dust."

**Surah 79 – An-Naziat – Those Who Dive**

[Author’s note] The is the 79th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 46 verses. "Naziat" indicates the noble group who join hands in freeing people from mental and physical bondage. Organized movements change the fate of a nation.

History is replete with oppression of the masses at the hands of three groups:

1 – Political tyrants, autocrats, monarchs, dictators, kings and tribal leaders.
2 – Hoarders of wealth, the rich elite, the greedy feudal lords, accumulators of illicit money, those who thrive on the toil of others.
3 – Religious leaders, priesthood, clergy of any religion including the mystic.

Almost invariably, these three exploitative forces work in concert and support each other. The best example given in the Qur’an is that of Pharaoh, Korah and Haman.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

79:1 Consider those who dive to bring up. (Pearls from the ocean. People from repression).

79:2 And move steadily in jubilation, releasing (the oppressed from bondage).

79:3 And working hard, swimming in strides.

79:4 And then together racing to progress.

79:5 And thus taking charge of their matters.

79:6 The Day when the tremulous trembles.

79:7 To be followed by the jolter. (The oppressors are shaken up again and again).

79:8 Some hearts throb on that Day.

79:9 Their eyes subdued.

79:10 They say, “What! Shall we ever be returned to the ditch of anonymity?” ('Hufrah' = Ditch = Not noteworthy = Lowly = Unremarkable = Insignificant).

79:11 "Shall we ever weaken to skeletal strength?"

79:12 And they say, “In that case, then, it would be an investment of loss!”

79:13 But finally, it is a single swift call.

79:14 And, behold, they will be awakened!

79:15 Has the story of Moses reached you? (Such a Revolution occurred in his times 20:9-98).

79:16 When his Lord called him in the Sacred Valley of Revelation (18:60-64, 20:12).

79:17 "Go to Pharaoh. Behold, he has crossed all bounds of decency."

79:18 And ask him, "Are you willing to be a better person?” (‘Zaku’ = Grow in goodness = Develop the ‘Self’ = Get rid of evil behavior = Attain to purity = Improve in conduct = Prime the ‘Self’ for actualization).

79:19 Then I will guide you to your Lord so that you will have some idea of His awesome Glory."

79:20 And then he presented to him the tremendous evidence of the Truth. (20:23).

79:21 But he denied and haughtily rejected.

79:22 Then turned he away briskly.

79:23 Then gathered (his chiefs) and called (his people).

79:24 And proclaimed, "I am your Lord, the Highest!"

79:25 So Allah took him to task, and made him an example for the later generations and the ones who soon followed.

79:26 Behold, herein is indeed a lesson for him who fears (violating the Divine Law).

79:27 What! Are you the more difficult to create or is the heaven that He built?

79:28 He raised high its canopy, and shaped it perfect.

79:29 And He made dark its night and its splendor He brings out.

79:30 And after that He made the earth shoot out from the Cosmic Nebula and made it spread out egg-shaped. (‘Dahaha’ entails all the meanings rendered 21:30, 41:11).

79:31 And produced from it its own water and pasture.

79:32 And the mountains He firmly fixed.

79:33 A means of livelihood for you and your cattle.

79:34 And so, when there comes the Great Event,

79:35 On that Day man will remember all that he has ever done. (53:39, 56:63-73).

79:36 And the Insurmountable Barrier will stand before him who finds it before him (he failed to prime his ‘Self’ for the felicitous development in the Hereafter 29:54, 39:48, 82:16).

79:37 Then, the one who rebelled against the Divine Laws,

79:38 And fell for instant gratifications, (‘Hayat-id-duniya’ = Life of this world = Short term = Instant gains = Disregard of the life to come).

79:39 Behold, the (foot of) the Insurmountable Barrier will be his home.

79:40 But the one who feared standing before his Sustainer and restrained his selfish desire,

79:41 Behold, the Paradise will be his home.

79:42 They ask you of the Hour, “When will it come to pass?”

79:43 Why? What do you have to tell them about it? (7:187, 33:63, 42:17).

79:44 Unto your Lord is the culmination of it. (53:42).

79:45 You are but a Warner unto him who stands in awe of it.

 

79:46 On the Day when they see it, it will be as if they had lived no longer than an evening or its morning.

**Surah 80 – 'Abasa – Someone Frowned**

[Author's note] This is the 80th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 42 verses.

Unfortunately, most commentators maintain that the exalted Messenger frowned upon a blind, poor but sincere seeker of the Truth. The reason for this grievous mistake is, once again, blind following of false traditions, and the conjecture of SHANE NUZUL (the so-called circumstance of a revelation).

The Surah does not even name the man who frowned. Through TASREEF, it becomes obvious that a proud Qureshite leader was in the habit of frowning at people (74:22). But even he is not the subject here as the verses tell us. Surah 'Abasa' actually addresses all those who would like to invite people to Allah.

Another example of such a fallacy is found in most expositions of Surah 24, An-Nur, in which no names or even a hint is given, yet most exponents insist that it was the mother of believers, Aisha r.a. who was slandered! - Again because of the 'Shane Nuzul' conjecture.

Allah's Messengers invariably paid special attention to the poor, the disabled, the deprived, and always refused to turn them away even though pressured by the elite to do so. (6:52, 8:62-64, 11:27, 18:28, 26:111-114).

Therefore, Surah 'Abasa' addresses all those who would invite people to Allah.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

80:1 Someone frowned and turned away.

80:2 Because the blind man approached him.

80:3 How could you know that he might have grown in goodness,

80:4 Or that he be enlightened and the Reminder might benefit him?

80:5 As for him who deems himself in no need of Guidance,

80:6 Unto him you give attention.

80:7 Yet it is not your responsibility if he grows not in goodness.

80:8 But as for him who came to you in all eagerness,

80:9 And feared straying. (2:2).

80:10 Him did you disregard!

80:11 Nay, indeed this is an Advisory.

80:12 So let him pay heed who will.

80:13 In Scrolls Dignified.

80:14 Exalted, Purified.

80:15 By the hands of Scribes.

80:16 Honorable and virtuous.

80:17 Man destroys himself, how ungrateful, rejecting the Sublime Truth!

80:18 Out of what thing has He created him?

80:19 From the male and the female gametes He created him, and then fashioned him in due proportion.

80:20 And then makes the Way easy for him. (Endowed with faculties).

80:21 Then causes him to die and brings him to disintegrated states. ('Qabr' = Grave = Disintegrated state = The state of sleep between physical death and Resurrection 36:52).

80:22 Then, when He will, He shall raise him to life again.

80:23 Nay, man did not fulfill what He enjoined upon him.

80:24 Let man consider his food. (His own food has involved so many hands from the field to the mouth. Shouldn't he share Our provision with others?)

80:25 How We pour water in showers.

80:26 And then We split the earth, split and cleave.

80:27 And cause the grain to grow therein.

80:28 And vineyards, and fresh vegetation.

80:29 And olive trees and palm trees.

80:30 And dense beautiful gardens.

80:31 And fruits and grasses.

80:32 Provision for you and your cattle.

80:33 But when comes the Call,

80:34 On the Day when a man will flee from his brother,

80:35 And his mother and his father,

80:36 And his wife and his children.

80:37 To everyone on that Day will be enough his own concern.

80:38 Some faces on that Day will be bright as dawn.

80:39 Laughing, rejoicing at good news.

80:40 And some faces on that Day will have dust upon them,

80:41 With gloom overspread.

80:42 These, these will be the ones who denied the Truth and divided humanity.

**Surah 81 – At-Takwir – The Folding Up**

[Author’s note] This is the 81st Surah of the Qur'an. It has 29 verses. This Surah portrays the drastic changes in the mode of governments.

The revelation of the Qur’an literally heralded the folding up of monarchy. The Persian Empire which was the super power of the times, represented monarchy in every sense of the word – kingdom, princes and the crown-prince, dynasty of one family with genealogical inheritance of the government, repression of the masses, division of people into the elite and the poor, expansionist designs, the ruling class banding together with the religious mafia and men of riches etc. The Persian Empire had the sun as its logo which also appeared on her banner. And the very first verse refers to that most powerful and well known symbol of Monarchy in that era.

Unfortunately, after the demise of the holy companions of the exalted Prophet, Muslims fell into the very system Islam had so effectively eradicated. Their rule had been that of mutual counsel and simple way of living with a laborer having the same rights as the Caliph.

Nonetheless the world has been slowly marching away from autocracy to democracy in the last many centuries. While the currently popular democracy is relatively closer to the system of government ordained by the Qur’an, it is not exactly Qur’anic. According to the Book of Allah, no parliament or assembly is authorized to devise legislation against the this Divine Writ. The Laws given in the Book are Eternal and yet amazingly ever modern and timeless. The fine tuning can be easily undertaken by the Central Authority as necessitated with changing times.

Taken literally, the verses in this Surah also refer to the Great Revolution that will take place in the Cosmos, with the current Universe being replaced with a brand new Cosmology. Of Eschatology,

the Science of Universal metamorphosis, some glimpses are given in this Surah as a recurring theme in the Qur'an.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

81:1 When the Sun is folded up. (Monarchies come to an end).

81:2 And when the stars lose their glow. (Tribal dictatorships fall).

81:3 And when the mountains are moved (The 'great ones' lose their stronghold 20:105, 56:5, 78:20).

81:4 And when the she-camels, ten months with the young, are abandoned. (A she-camel about to deliver the young has been a precious commodity, but the means of transportation will change).

81:5 And when the wild beasts are herded together. (The nomads and even the cannibals civilize and lead an organized collective life).

81:6 And when the seas bustle with ships.

81:7 And when the people intermingle. (The world becomes a smaller place).

81:8 And when the little girl that was buried alive is made to ask -

81:9 For what crime she was slain. (Women's rights will be restored).

81:10 And when the papers are published widely.

81:11 And when the sky is unveiled. (The Space sciences advance).

81:12 And when the Blazing Fire is ignited. (The guilty are swiftly apprehended).

81:13 And when the Paradise is brought near. (A glimpse of it on the earth).

81:14 (Then) every person will see what he has prepared.

81:15 Oh, but I call to witness the revolving planets.

81:16 The stars which rise and set in their orbits.

81:17 And the Night as it slowly closes upon.

81:18 And the fresh breath of the morning.

81:19 Behold, this indeed is the revealed Word of a noble Messenger (69:40).

81:20 Strengthened by Him Who is enthroned in His Almightiness of Supreme Control.

81:21 (The Messenger is) to be obeyed and trusted.

81:22 For, this fellow-man of yours is not a madman.

81:23 And, indeed, he has found Wisdom at its highest horizon. (53:1-7).

81:24 And he withholds not in secret the least bit of the Revelation.

81:25 Nor is it the utterance of a rejected satanic force. (Such as desire).

81:26 Which way, then, are you going?

81:27 This Message is no less than a Reminder and giver of eminence to all mankind.

81:28 Unto everyone of you who wills to walk aright. (1:5).

81:29 But you cannot will it unless you abide by the Laws of the Lord of the Worlds. (4:88).

## Surah 82 – Al-Infitar – The Shattering

[Author's note] This is the 82nd Surah of the Qur'an. It has 19 verses. The Qur'an is not a Book of prophecies, but since it is the Divine Word, whenever it alludes to the future, those statements must come to pass and many have.

The Universe has been so designed by the Almighty that no actions falls into the void of nothingness. Every single event and action is recorded and meets with its logical consequence. This is the Law of Requital which is the foundation of the Divine Rule, and the ultimate judgment of human conduct has been planned by Him on a Day (Time) that He calls 'YAUMIDDIN' = The Day of Judgment.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

82:1 When the sky is shattered. (The conquest of the high Space will begin).

82:2 And when the planets are dispersed. (Some of them are counted and named).

82:3 And when the oceans will overflow with traffic.

82:4 And when the hidden things in the earth are overturned. (The earth will be excavated for Archaeology 100:9).

82:5 A 'Self' will know what it has done and what it has left undone. (Psychology will make strides).

82:6 O Man! What has lured you away from your Sustainer, the Bountiful?

82:7 Who created you, then fashioned you, then proportioned you? (95:4).

82:8 Having shaped you and put you together well in accordance of with His Laws. (59:24).

82:9 Nay, but you deny the Judgment and the Divine System of life. (‘Deen’ = Divine System = Final Judgment = Way of life = Erroneously, but frequently translated as religion).

82:10 Behold, there are above you guardians ever-vigilant.

82:11 Noble, recording.

82:12 They know whatever you do. (Verses 10, 11, 12, refer to the Divine Law of Requital).

82:13 Behold, the virtuous who create room for others in the society, will be in Bliss.

82:14 And behold, those who split humanity will face an Insurmountable Barrier.

82:15 They will be visibly exposed to it on the Day of Judgment.

82:16 And will not be able to abscond from it (79:36).

82:17 And what will enlighten you about the Day of Judgment?

82:18 Again, what will enlighten you about the Day of Judgment?

82:19 That is the Day when no person will have the power to help another. For, on that Day (it will become obvious) that all Command belongs to Allah alone.

Surah 83 At-Tatfif – Dealing in Fraud

[Author’s note] This is the 83rd Surah of the Qur'an. It has 36 verses. The title refers to cheating or defrauding others. Cheating people in business transactions violates human rights. Another title given to the Surah is Al-Mutaffifin meaning the cheaters or the defrauders. “Tatfif” also denotes unfair dealings, not doing justice to one’s duties, failing to show gratitude respect or honor where it is due. And in general, it signifies being deficient in fulfilling human rights.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

83:1 Woe unto the dealers in fraud!

83:2 Those who demand full measure when receiving from people.

83:3 But give less than due when giving them by measure or weight. (Or diminish the recompense of the laborer).

83:4 Deem they not that they are bound to be raised again?

83:5 Unto an Awesome Day.

83:6 The Day when all mankind stand before the Lord of the Worlds. (And the humanity will stand on its feet in this world rallying around the Divine System 39:79, 45:36-37, 84:6-8, 89:16-22).

83:7 Nay, behold, the record of the dividers of humanity is in 'Sijjin'.

83:8 Ah! What will convey to you what 'Sijjin' is!

83:9 A record indelibly inscribed. (‘Sijjin’ = Inescapable, guarded record as if it is imprisoned).

83:10 Anguish on that Day for those who deny the Truth in practice!

83:11 Those who deny the Day of Judgment.

83:12 And none denies it but he who drags down his own progress by crossing the bounds of reason. (The Law of Cause and Effect easily appeals to reason).

83:13 When Our Messages are conveyed to him, he says, "These are stories of the bygones."

83:14 Nay, but their hearts get corroded by what they have earned. (2:7).

83:15 Nay, verily, on that Day they will be veiled from (the Light of) their Lord.

83:16 Then, behold, they shall enter the Blazing Fire. ('Jahim' = Insurmountable Barrier = Bar to progress = Obstruction that halts = Halting of evolution = Mere survival = Hellfire = Flames of anguish = Fire of regret).

83:17 And it will be said, “This is that which you used to deny.”

83:18 Nay, behold, the record of those who made room for others in the community is in 'Illiyin'. (‘Birr’ = Virtue = Make expanse = Make room for others in the society = Help people to adjust and make progress in a new environment = Exponential growth).

83:19 Ah! What will convey to you what 'Illiyin' is!

83:20 A record indelibly inscribed. (‘Illiyin’ = Loftiness upon loftiness).

83:21 These near ones (to Allah) find it open before them.

83:22 Behold, those who made room in the society for others, verily, are in Blissful delight.

83:23 On beautiful thrones, they will look up (to the Magnificent Kingdom 76:20).

83:24 You will see their faces glitter with Delight.

83:25 They will be given a refreshing drink of pure nectar, sealed.

83:26 The seal of it is musk. For all this, then, let every aspirant aspire!

83:27 For, it consists of Nobility. (‘Tasnim’ = ‘Tashrif’ = Nobility = Ennobling = Hosting in nobility = Exalting = Imparting honor = Raising in degree).

83:28 A Spring from which the nearest (to Allah) drink.

[Nearest to Allah are those who have adopted His 'SIBGHAH' = Hue or Color 2:138. That means adopting Allah's Attributes in the limited human capacity. Some examples of these attributes are: Kindness – creativity – forgiveness – turning to people in love and affection – (attaining to) wisdom – knowledge (learning) – compassion – clemency – peacefulness – remaining aware – sense of duty - determination – justice – protection of others – generosity – self-control – leniency - approachability - appreciation – strength – patience - giving light – guiding - independence – truthfulness – maintenance of people and things – keeping pledges – resolve – benefiting – beautiful designing – providing – listening – observing – being worthy of trust – nobility of character – giving.

Interestingly, this is a spectrum by which we all can make a self-assessment as to where we stand on the ascending ladder to 'TAZKIAH' = Self-actualization or personal development]

83:29 Behold, those who thrived on others' toil used to laugh at those who had attained belief.

83:30 And whenever they passed by the believers they winked at each other in sarcasm. (Look, these people 'waste' their wealth and person on strangers).

83:31 And when they returned to their own folk, they used to tell jokes about them.

83:32 And whenever they saw the believers they said, "Behold, these people have indeed gone astray (wandering in unmarked valleys of life)."

83:33 Yet, they have not been sent as watchers over them.

83:34 That Day those who have chosen to be graced with belief will be in a position to laugh at the deniers (but they won't. 7:43, 15:47).

83:35 On beautiful thrones, they will look up (to the Magnificent Kingdom 76:20).

83:36 Are these deniers of the Truth being returned anything but their own doings? ('Thawab' = Return on an investment).

**Surah 84 – Al-Inshiqaq – The Sundering**

[Author's note] This is the 84th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 25 verses. It is common to find the exponents of the Qur'an applying too much emphasis on the Hereafter, Eschatology and Apocalypse. This is especially so concerning the 30th and the last section of the Qur'an. The Qur'an being a Book of Guidance deals more with life on this earth than with death and the Hereafter. Resurrection and the Day of Judgment are unquestionably extremely significant and oft-repeated themes in the Book, but they invariably connect with how we spend our life on this planet. Moreover, numerous verses in the Qur'an apply simultaneously to the revolutions among nations and to the Ultimate Great Revolution in the Cosmos.

Likewise, the Qur'an repeatedly emphasizes that Paradise and Hell begin right here, in this life. A benevolent society is a paradise on earth and a chaotic society is a hell on earth. Mankind can build their own paradise by establishing the Divine System and then 'inherit' it in the Hereafter.

On an individual basis, whoever lives by the Divine Commands attains to a state of inner peace and contentment and, in the process, primes his 'Self' for Immortality, the ever-lasting Paradise.

This Surah briefly touches upon the ever increasing achievements of mankind in science and technology.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

84:1 When the Sky is rent asunder. (The high Space will be explored and Astronomy will bring knowledge of the Cosmos).

84:2 It will listen to its Lord for that is what it has been decreed to do.

84:3 And when the earth is spread out. (It becomes widely inhabited).

84:4 And casts out whatever is in it and becomes void. (The earth will bring forth its fossils and minerals through Archaeology, drilling and mining).

84:5 It will listen to its Lord for that is what it has been decreed to do.

84:6 O Man! Behold, You have been toiling hard toward your Lord – painfully toiling – then you shall meet Him.

[Wittingly or unwittingly, mankind are working their way toward the Divine System. The method of Trial and Error can make them advance but Divine Revelation economizes human effort and saves them centuries of pursuit toward a better, but still a very imperfect and fragile system of life]

84:7 Then whoever is given his Book in his right hand, (The follower of Revelation is indeed blessed, for),

84:8 He truly reckons the decisions of his life with ease.

84:9 And returns rejoicing to his folk (the Ideologically synchronous minds).

84:10 But as for him who is given his Book behind his back (he who has turned his back to the Book, looking behind to the ancestral traditions),

84:11 He will be inviting upon himself chaos.

84:12 And enter the Blazing Flame.

84:13 Behold, he used to enjoy the company of his own kind.

84:14 For, behold, he deemed that life would never quit revolving like this.

84:15 Nay, but behold, his Lord did see all his mettle. ('Bihi' = In him = His true worth = His mettle).

84:16 Oh, I call to witness the Rosy Afterglow of sunset.

84:17 And the Night and all that it enshrouds.

84:18 And the Moon as it steadily grows to her fullness.

84:19 That you will traverse higher and higher from one plane to another. (Civilizations will keep advancing in sciences, and individuals will always have a chance to grow in goodness. Furthermore, evolution of the 'Self' will carry on in the life to come).

84:20 What, then, is the matter with them that they believe not (in a higher form of life?)

84:21 And when the Qur'an is recited to them, they prostrate not! (They adore not and humble themselves not before the eloquence, Wisdom and Majesty of the Divine Word!)

84:22 Nay, but the rejecters belie.

84:23 And Allah is best Knower of what they hide. (Their idols, peer pressure, traditions, malice, schemes, vested interests).

84:24 So give them the tiding of an awful doom.

84:25 Except to those who choose to be graced with belief and do acts that help people – for them is a reward unending.

**Surah 85 – Al-Buruj – The Great Constellations**

[Author's note] This is the 85th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 22 verses. The Supreme Control of Allah over the Cosmic systems and all the Universe in itself requires that He must send His Guidance to mankind as well. All things in the Universe follow the Divine Laws, hence, it is only logical that man, too, must be shown his way. And that is what the Divine Revelation is all about. "He who digs a pit for others falls into it himself."

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

85:1 The sky full of constellations stands witness.

85:2 And the Promised Day (when you saw the Truth triumph over Falsehood).

85:3 And He Who watches, and that which is being watched (will see that),

85:4 Destroy themselves all those who dig ditches for others.

85:5 Igniting the fire of rage.

85:6 Behold, they contemplate and wait in anticipation.

85:7 And they are well aware of what they are doing to the believers.

85:8 Whom they hate for no other reason than that they believe in Allah, the Almighty, the Owner of Praise.(5:59, 22:40).

85:9 And to Whom belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and the earth. But Allah is Watcher over all things.

85:10 Behold, those who persecute the believing men and the believing women, and then repent not, theirs, verily, is the doom of Hell - yes, theirs is the doom of burning.

85:11 Verily, those who choose to be graced with belief and do actions that help people, theirs are the Gardens underneath which rivers flow. That is the Great Eminence.

85:12 (Yet) Verily, strong is the Grip of your Lord!

85:13 Behold, He it is Who originates (life) and then makes again and again.

85:14 And He is the forgiving, the Loving.

85:15 Lord of the Supreme Throne.

85:16 Carrying out His Plan according to His Laws. (‘Fe’l’ = Doing = Carrying out. ‘Ma Yurid’ = As He plans = As He wills = In accordance with His Laws).

[In the World of Command He makes Laws as He wills. Then He implements these Laws in the World of Creation - the Universe (7:54). And then He neither changes them, nor makes any exceptions. (17:77, 33:38, 33:62, 35:43, 40:85, 48:23). His Rule is the Rule of Law and not of haphazard tantrums]

85:17 Has the story reached you of the great troops?

85:18 Of Pharaoh and Thamud.

85:19 And yet the rejecters knowingly live in denial.

85:20 But Allah surrounds them without them conceiving it. (‘Minwwaraihim’ = From behind them = Without them conceiving it).

85:21 Nay, but this is Sublime Qur'an.

85:22 (Inscribed) upon Tablet Imperishable.

[Allah Himself guards it against corruption. It is preserved in minds and hearts in addition to parchment and paper, and its Laws are indelibly inscribed in the Book of Nature 15:9, 56:78. Interestingly, 85:22 is unique in using ‘Lauh-im-Mahfuz’, the Imperishable Tablet, for the Qur’an. Elsewhere it relates to the Divine Database about the Universe.]

## Surah 86 – At-Tariq – The Brightest Star

[Author's note] This is the 86th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 17 short verses.

'Tariq' literally means a night-visitant who arrives with a lamp in his hand and knocks at the door. ('Taraq' = Knock at the door).

Metaphorically, it applies to any star that shines at night, and also the brightest star on the horizon at any given time that 'knocks' at the darkness.

Keeping these meanings in mind, it dawns upon us that 'At-Tariq' = The Tariq, is very fittingly applicable to the exalted Messenger who arrived when the world was sunk in the Darkness of Ignorance. With the Radiant Lamp of the Qur'an in his hand this noble visitant knocked at the doors of minds and hearts and gave Light that has been spreading over the entire planet earth.

[We find a similar but much less dignified statement about Jesus Christ in the Gospel, Matthew 24:42-44.

24:42 "Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming - 43 But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into – 44 Therefore, you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect."]

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

86:1 The sky and the Tariq are witness to what is being said.

86:2 And what will enlighten you as to what the Tariq is!

86:3 The Brightest Star! The noble night-visitant with the Radiant Lamp of the Qur'an in his hand knocking at the doors of minds and hearts, giving Light.

86:4 There is no person without a watch being kept over him. (The Law of Requital is ever-vigilant).

86:5 Let the human being, then, consider out of what he has been created.

(And realize the common origin of all mankind. Has there not passed over man an era when he was not even worth mentioning? 76:1)

86:6 He has been created from a turbulent water. (21:30, 24:25).

86:7 That issued from between tough rocks and mingled dust.

['Sulb' = Hard = Tough = Strong, Rocky, as given in 'Tajil Urus' and 'Muhit'. 'Turab' = Dust, with 'Turaib' as its plural in 'Tajil Urus'.

Mountains, rocky as pegs, along with the glacier systems and snow tops and sources of rivers, have been described as water reservoirs in many verses: 13:3, 15:19, 31:10, 39:5, 77:27, 79:28-30, 88:20.

For the origin of life on the planet and creation of the human being, including the beginning of life through water, dust, hydrated inorganic matter etc, herein are given some important references for the research minded reader: 4:1, 6:2, 6:38, 6:99, 7:11, 11:6, 11:61, 15:26, 21:30, 23:12-14, 24:45, 25:54, 30:20, 31:28, 32:7-9, 35:11, 36:77, 39:6, 40:64-67, 51:49, 53:45, 55:14, 71:14, 76:2-3, 86:5-7, 96:1-2.

My rendition of three terms used in 86:6-7 respectfully differs from other translations. We know that disregarding the principle of TASREEF-e-AYAAT often hampers the Sublime Word.

Now, here are those three terms along with their erroneous translations:

- 'Ma-in-Dafiq': A drop emitted, seminal fluid or gushing fluid.
- 'Sulb': Man's ribs, man's loins.
- 'Turaib': Pelvic arch of woman, back-bone and the ribs of man, spine and the viscera of man and/or woman, sacrum of man or woman.

But keeping in view the lexicon and the Tasreef given above, my humble rendition of these verses is probably more sound and reflects the original Magnificence to an extent]

86:8 Now, verily, He (Who has thus created man), is well Able to bring him back.

86:9 On the Day when all secrets will come be disclosed.

86:10 Then he will have no power, nor a helper.

86:11 Witness is the high atmosphere that keeps returning (its water, gases and other composition).

86:12 And witness is the earth which cracks open for springs and plants.

86:13 Behold, this (Qur'an) is a Conclusive Word. (That can give you a new life. 40:29).

86:14 It is not an amusing idle talk.

86:15 (Yet) Behold, they plot and scheme (to refute the Truth 34:33).

86:16 But My Law works its own Way.

86:17 Therefore give the rejecters some time. Leave them alone for a while.

**Surah 87 – Al-A'la – The Most High**

This is the 87th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 19 verses. The Surah is adorned with eloquence, TASREEF and a few brand new concepts in a captivating style so typical of this Mighty Book of Allah.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

87:1 Strive to raise the Name of your Lord, the Most High. (Establish His Glory on earth 56:96).

87:2 Who creates and proportions. (So that all things might become what they are meant to be).

87:3 And Who appoints due measure and then shows the way (to all things as to their functions).

87:4 And Who brings forth the lush pasture.

87:5 And then turns it into rust-brown residue. (18:45).

87:6 (O Messenger) We shall teach you thus that you will never forget. (Mankind need Guidance like all things in the Universe do).

87:7 Allah never Wills you to forget (17:86). Behold, He knows the manifest and what is hidden.

[He is Aware of man's manifest actions and his hidden potentials which can best be developed under Divine Guidance. Therefore, the Prophet never will forget what Allah teaches him. (73:2).

'Illa' = Except = Save = But. It means 'Never' when applied to Divine Will. So 'Illa' here, as in many other verses, represents 'never' - and not 'except' (e.g. 11:107-108, 55:33, 87:6-7), "Al-Manar" vol 1. p. 414]

87:8 And thus We shall ease your way to the ultimate ease. (To the end that you will establish the Qur'an in the society).

87:9 Therefore, keep reminding, for, the Reminder does benefit.

87:10 (Behold), he will heed who fears (the consequences of pre-emptive rejection).

87:11 And only the unfortunate will stay on the side-lines.

87:12 He who will be cast into the great Fire.

87:13 Wherein he neither dies nor lives. Mere survival!

[Without Permanent Values people live an unlived life. And in both lives their 'Self' fails to make progress. The Qur'an terms as 'Hell' a life that is stagnant, and as 'Paradise' a life that is on the move, ever evolving. That is 'Immortality' as distinct from 'Survival' 14:17, 20:74, 74:28-29).

87:14 Successful, indeed, is he who primes his 'Self' for development. (Living upright, helping others).

87:15 And keeps foremost in mind the Name and the Attributes of his Lord and then follows through.

['Ism' = Name = Attributes. 'Salu' = Follow closely. In the context here: trying to adopt the 'Hue' of Allah - absorb Divine Attributes in one's personality, of course, in the limited human capacity 2:138, 83:28]

87:16 But nay, you prefer the life of this world.

(Given to instant gains instead of living upright that ensures success in both lives 2:201, 3:147, 4:134, 7:156, 10:64,17:72, 28:77, 42:22).

87:17 Although the Hereafter is better and more enduring.

87:18 Behold, this has been said in the former Revelations as well. (‘Suhuf’ = Scrolls = Revelations).

87:19 The Revelations of Abraham and Moses.

**Surah 88 – Al-Ghashiyah – The Great Covering**

[Author’s note] This is the 88th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 26 verses. 'Ghashiyah' is something that covers like a blanket. 'Al-Ghashiyah' implies a dominating or overwhelming event that overshadows other things, and thus, refers to the Great Cosmic Revolution, often termed as 'the Apocalypse'.

Reward and punishment are built-in in our actions. Allah’s Law of Requital returns what a person has earned and everyone determines his own destiny by what he does with his human capacities. So, recompense is only a logical culmination of one’s own deeds.

Allama Sir Muhammad Iqbal d.1938, echoed this Qur'anic Theme beautifully in one of his poems stating: The Hellfire is nothing but a cool place. People carry own fuel therein to kindle the fire.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

88:1 Has the news of the Dominating Event reached you?

88:2 Some faces on that Day will be downcast.

88:3 Laboring, exhausted. (They were in motion without action. They toiled without clear direction).

88:4 As they enter a sizzling Fire.

88:5 Given to drink from a spring of burning anguish.

88:6 No food for them but the bitterness of dry thorns (that they picked during their wayward journey through life).

88:7 Which nourishes not, nor relieves hunger.

88:8 On that Day some faces will shine with Bliss.

88:9 Happy with the fruit of their effort.

 

88:10 In a Garden exalted in honor.

88:11 Wherein you hear not senseless speech.

88:12 Therein is an ever-flowing Spring (of Grace 76:16-17).

88:13 Therein are thrones of honor.

88:14 And shiny glasses set at hand.

88:15 And cushions set in rows.

88:16 And silken carpets spread out.

88:17 Will they not, then, look at:

- the water-laden clouds, how they are made? (15:22).

88:18 - And at the sky, how it is raised high? (Without visible pillars 13:2).

88:19 - And at the mountains, how they are entrenched?

88:20 - And at the earth, how it is spread out? (That you do not even feel the sphere, nor feel its speedy rotations 31:10, 39:5, 79:28-30).

88:21 (This is some evidence, O Messenger!) Remind them, for you are one to remind.

88:22 You are not a task master over them.

88:23 But whoever turns away and denies the Truth,

88:24 Allah will requite him with a great requital.

88:25 Behold, unto Us is their return.

88:26 Then it is for Us to call them to account.

**Surah 89 – Al-Fajr – The Daybreak**

[Author's note] This is the 89th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 30 short verses. The Qur'an brings Dawn to the Night of Ignorance.

Any society that is oblivious to the welfare of the deprived, will inevitably fail to flourish. Material advancement of a nation is no guarantee of its durability.

Verses 1, 2 and 3 of this Surah are often grossly misinterpreted for failing to look at the Qur'an in its Big Picture.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

89:1 Witness is the Daybreak.

[As it shines through the deep darkness of the night. So does the Qur'an bring Light through the Darkness of Ignorance]

89:2 And ten Nights.

[You have noticed the benevolent transformation your Pilgrimage has undergone. From the first to the tenth of the month of Zilhijjah, you used to indulge in all kind of obscenity. Had you not departed from the way of Abraham, with your Hajj consisting of whistling, clapping, circumambulating the Ka'bah in complete nudity? The sublime Purpose of the Pilgrimage had been reduced to senseless rituals and abominations 2:125-127, 2:197]

89:3 And the Even and the Odd.

[Recall your gambling in those ten nights with the even and odd numbers of arrows and the related numeric superstitions in the society]

89:4 And Witness to the Truth is the departing of the Night of Ignorance.

89:5 Is not all this a solemn evidence for every thinking person?

89:6 Have you noted how your Lord dealt with Aad? (They had refused to see the Light 7:65-72).

89:7 Those whose capital was Iram, the city of towers and lofty mansions.

['Iram' were the generation of Iram son of Sam son of Noah. The capital of the nation of Aad bears the same name, Iram, and now lies buried in Al-Ahqaf, the Sand-dunes of Southern Arabia. 46:21]

89:8 The like of which (the towers and castles) were never built in other cities. (26:128-134).

89:9 And with Thamud, who slashed out for dwellings rocks in the valley. (Wadi-al-Qura. 7:74, 15:82).

89:10 And with the powerful Pharaoh of the great Pyramids.

[20:43, 38:12, 43:78-79. 'Zil-awtad = Lord of stakes = A mighty emperor = Owner of many tents with pegs well-dug into the ground = Owner of the Pyramids. Allah's Law is also the Law of the high Nature and the rise and fall of nations is fully subject to it]

89:11 They all played God in the land, towns and cities.

['Tagha' = Crossing limits = Transgressing Divine Law = Trespassing all bounds of decency = Being rebellious = Ignoring Permanent Values = Behaving arrogantly = Being 'Taghut' or false god = Playing God 2:256, 4:60, 4:76,16:36]

89:12 And increased corruption and crime therein.

89:13 And so, your Lord chastised them with a whipping punishment.

89:14 Behold, your Lord is ever on the watch!

89:15 But as for man, whenever his Lord lets his life take a turn by giving him honor and Bliss, he says, “My Lord has honored me.” (Honor or disgrace are subject to Divine Laws, and are not random phenomena).

89:16 But when He lets his life take a turn by restricting his provision, he says, “My Lord has disgraced me.”

89:17 Nay, nay, you honor not the orphan.

(You forget to analyze what you do and what you do not do. ‘Yatim’ = Orphan= Widow = Solitary = Left alone in the society = The helpless. A benevolent society makes room for the ‘Yatim’).

89:18 And you do not encourage one another to feed the needy.

(‘Miskin’ = Poor = Needy = Whose life is stranded for any reason = Whose business has stalled = Who has lost his job = Whose life has been hampered by circumstances. ‘Ta’m’ = Feeding, includes taking care of all aspects of life. A benevolent collective order takes care of everyone).

89:19 And you devour the inheritances with greed.

89:20 And you love wealth with boundless love.

89:21 Nay, when the earth is pounded, ground with a grinding.

89:22 And your Lord comes, and His angels, rank upon rank. (A great Revolution will come and the Divine System will be established. The Universal forces will line up to that end).

89:23 And Hell is brought close that Day. On that Day man will heed the Advisory, but of what avail will then be the remembrance?

89:24 He will say, "Ah, I wish I had sent forth some good for my life!”

89:25 For, none chastises as He will chastise on that Day.

89:26 And none binds as He binds. (The logical result of disregarding the Creator’s Guidance is getting bound by shackles of mental slavery 7:157).

89:27 But Oh! You human being that has attained inner peace! (By living upright 13:28, 91:9).

89:28 Return unto your Lord, pleased and Approved.

89:29 Enter, then, together with My servants -

89:30 Yes, enter you My Paradise! (9:119).

**Surah 90 – Al-Balad – The Town**

[Author's note] This is the 90th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 20 short verses. The Town refers to Makkah, the birthplace of the exalted Messenger. The way to Success is like a steep hill, tiring but rewarding, taking one to new heights. Allah has shown man the two ways, one of virtue and the other of vice, and given him free will to make his choices.

'Wa' in many Surahs and verses is most commonly rendered as - God says, "I swear!" - The alternative meanings in the Quraish dialect are, 'Witness', 'Reflect', 'Consider'. Adopted by some outstanding commentators these latter meanings are not only much more fitting to the context in every single instance, but beautifully blend with the Big Picture of the Qur'an.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

90:1 Nay, I present this very Town as witness.

90:2 The Town where (O Prophet) you have lived.

90:3 And where your ancestors have multiplied. (A Sanctuary for peace for everyone).

90:4 Verily, We have created the human being for hard work.

(This is the Town where Abraham and Ishmael labored, and where you began your toil to raise the Name of your Lord 2:125-127).

90:5 Does he think that none has Power over him?

90:6 He keeps boasting, "I have wasted so much wealth!"

90:7 What! Does he think that no one sees him? (How much and where he spent it).

90:8 Did We not give him two eyes? ('Ainain' = Two physical eyes = Physical vision and vision of the heart = Sight and insight).

90:9 And a tongue and a pair of lips?

(The ability to speak and converse meaningfully and ask questions for Guidance).

90:10 And shown him the two highways? (Of virtue and vice).

90:11 But he hardly tries the uphill road, the Ascent.

90:12 Ah, what will convey unto you what that Ascent is!

90:13 - Freeing others from bondage, physical or mental, and from any social, economic or political oppression.

(Freeing the neck includes all the above meanings plus striving to establish the Divine System wherein the only Master is Allah's Law).

90:14 - And to feed in times of hunger, famine, wars and natural disasters.

90:15 - And to take special care of those who despite being a part of the community feel left out. ('Za maqrabah' = Near one = Relative = Part of the community).

90:16 – And helping him who remains needy though he toils in dust.

90:17 - And to be of those who have chosen to be graced with belief, and become living reminders of perseverance and living reminders of compassion.

90:18 Such are the ones hand in hand with Bliss.

90:19 And those who deny Our Messages, such are the ones hand in hand with despondence.

90:20 With Fire all around them.

[The Hellfire is such that its flames originate in the hearts and engulf the hearts - The Fire of regret, anguish and despair 104:6-8.]

**Surah 91 – Ash-Shams – The Sun**

[Author's note] This is the 91st Surah of the Qur'an. It has 15 short verses. Human beings are endowed with a NAFS = 'Self' termed differently as Soul, Personality, Ego, I-am-ness, I, Me, etc. this NAFS is in a 'raw' form when we are born and it is up to us to refine it, and develop it. The body is only a vehicle to bring to use our will or 'Self'. The person who has primed his 'Self' by living according to Divine Values, becomes a candidate for true Immortality and Paradise in the Hereafter.

Whereas he who fails to prime his 'Self' this way, can only be a candidate for mere survival which the Qur'an terms as SAQAR. A life of Fire that neither lets live, nor lets die. The Fire of regret, anguish and despair. No further evolution is possible for such a 'Self' - a mere existence of stagnation. That is what Hell is with unrelenting grief and regret on having wasted the great opportunity in the short worldly life.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

91:1 Witness is the Sun and its radiant splendor.

91:2 And the Moon that borrows its light.

91:3 Witness is the day as it brightens the world.

91:4 And the night that cloaks it.

91:5 And the sky and its wondrous design.

91:6 And the earth and its vast expanse!

91:7 Consider the human ‘Self, and how it is capable for being balanced out.

91:8 And how it is instilled with the capacity to disintegrate or become secure.

91:9 Successful indeed is he who grows the ‘Self’.

91:10 And failure is indeed he who keeps it buried (under ignorance and superstition).

91:11 (Disregarding this principle) Thamud rejected (Saleh) while playing God.

(‘Tagha’ = Being ‘Taghut’ = Becoming a false god = Playing God = Transgressing = Rebelling = Crossing bounds of decency = Extreme arrogance).

91:12 Behold, the most forward among them was picked up for defiance.

91:13 Although Allah’s Messenger had told them, “It is a she-camel belonging to Allah, so let her drink!” (The land belongs to Allah, and this she-camel represents the weak among you 7:73, 26:155).

91:14 But they denied him and they killed her. Their Lord then doomed them all alike for their lagging behind in compliance.

91:15 For none of them had any fear of what might befall them.

## Surah 92 – Al-Lail – The Night

[Author’s note] This is the 92nd Surah of the Qur'an and it has 21 verses. The Surah underscores the unity of mankind in diversity of their effort and occupations. Actions speak louder than words, so people must try to become living examples of great character. They must leave room for 'doing business' with Allah alone.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

92:1 Witness is the Night as it cloaks in darkness.

92:2 And the Day as it shines with splendor.

92:3 Witness is creation of the male and the female.

92:4 Behold, your effort is diverse. (Your occupations and earnings are different. Let not this be a cause for division among you).

92:5 And so, he who gives and walks aright - (92:18-19).

92:6 And makes his life a manifest image of benevolence -

92:7 We will indeed ease his way to the Ultimate Ease.

92:8 But he who withholds and thinks himself self-sufficient becoming careless of others -

92:9 And makes his life a manifest image of denial of goodness -

92:10 We will indeed ease his way to hardship.

92:11 And what could his wealth avail when he himself falls! (69:28, 111:2).

92:12 Behold, it is for Us to show you the Way (through this Revelation).

92:13 And behold, unto Us belong the End and the Beginning. (93:4).

92:14 And so I warn you of a raging Fire.

92:15 Which only the most unfortunate must endure.

92:16 He who denies and turns away.

92:17 But far removed from it is he who walks aright.

92:18 Who gives his wealth that he may grow in goodness. (9:111).

92:19 Not that he is returning any favors. (76:9).

92:20 But only to seek the Approval of his Lord, the Most High.

92:21 And soon he will be pleased.

**Surah 93 – Ad-Duha – The Daylight**

[Author's note] This is the 93rd Surah of the Qur'an, it has 11 verses. Under the influence of some very doubtful and strange traditions this Surah is usually thought to be addressing the exalted Prophet. But, obviously then, it would become redundant today.

Numerous verses in the Qur'an addressing a singular second person apply to every reader, since the Book is timeless and meant for every human being at all times and places. Of course, there are verses elsewhere which explicitly state, "O Prophet! O Messenger!" - and others which, by context, clearly and most appropriately are directed to him. Apart from those verses the second person singular is better understood as: O Man! O Human being!

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

93:1 (O Sincere human being!) Consider the Daylight.

93:2 And the night when it is still.

(There is light at the end of the tunnel and with hardship is ease, like there is Daybreak after the Night 89:1, 92:1-2, 94:6).

93:3 Your Lord has never forsaken you, nor did He ever forget you.

[‘Qala’ = Forget things unattended in a cooking pan. Allah has always provided mankind with what their minds and bodies need and ensures that they do not trail behind in the process of Evolution]

93:4 And verily, being far-sighted is better for you than being short-sighted.

[‘Akhirah’ = Hereafter = Life to come = Long term = Tomorrow = The time and state to follow = Future = Outcome. ‘Ula’ = First = Close = Instant = Now = Immediate gains = Life of this world = Near]

93:5 And verily, soon will your Lord give unto you so that you will be well-pleased.

93:6 Did He not find you in a lonely state, and give you an environment?

[‘Yatim’ = Orphan = Lonely state. Man is born into the world and then appears before his Lord in a lonely state. 6:95, 19:95]

93:7 And He found you looking for guidance, and showed you the way. (‘Dhall’ = Wandering = Looking for guidance = Straying).

93:8 And He found you dependent, and made you independent. (Infancy to youth).

93:9 Now you shall not treat harshly any orphan, widow, the helpless and he who feels left alone in the society.

93:10 And never shall you repulse him who seeks help.

93:11 But the blessings of your Lord you shall speak of by sharing. ('Haddith' = Convey and share what you have learned and gained).

**Surah 94 – Alam-Nashrah – Did We not Expand?**

[Author’s note] This is the 94th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 8 verses. It is addressed to the exalted Messenger and to the followers of the Qur’an at any place and time.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

94:1 Did We not expand your chest? (Endowed you with resilience, understanding and a heart and mind to accomplish the ‘impossible’).

94:2 And thus lightened your burden. (Made the journey through life easy by bestowing upon you the perceptual and intellectual faculties. 80:20).

94:3 Which would weigh on your back so heavily.

94:4 And exalted your renown (O Prophet!). (And gave eminence to you, O Mankind!)

94:5 And behold, with every hardship comes ease.

94:6 Indeed, with every hardship comes ease!

94:7 Hence, whenever you are free from the immediate task, embark upon the next strife.

94:8 And turn all your attention to your Lord. (Remain focused on the Mission entrusted upon you by your Lord).

**Surah 95 – At-Teen – The Fig**

[Author’s note] This is the 95th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 8 verses. Allah presents here four things as Evidence to the Truth and the unanimity of His Messages. The Fig, the Olive, the Mount Sinai and the town of Makkah.

The last two being places, the first two infer as places as well. During times of the Qur’an revelation, Syria and Palestine were the top producers of fig and olive. And that is where the chain of ‘ISBAT’ or the Israelite Prophets of the Tribes and their ancestor Prophets had lived. The last one of them was Jesus, son of Mary.

Therefore, the first three verses of this Surah are connecting Muhammad a.s., the Last Apostle of Allah, with the previous links in one blessed chain of Divine Revelation.

“Monographs of W.W. Hunter”, 1878 indicates that “--- the valley of Mount Ararat (Al-Jodi 11:44) was also known as “The Valley of Figs”. “The Ark came to rest at Judea, in the hills of Ararat, east of the Tigris River.” W.W. Hunter.

Olive is symbolically mentioned in the Qur’an, 23:20, 24:35. Jesus Christ delivered his sermon on Divine Judgment at the Mount of Olives just outside the walls of Jerusalem. (Matthew 24:3-4)

Fig is figuratively mentioned in Matthew 21:18-20, 24:32-35 and in Jeremiah 24:1-10.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

95:1 Witness is the Fig and the Olive. (The Call of Allah’s Messengers, the history, the places and the reaction of their people).

95:2 And Mount Sinai. (19:52, 20:9-36, 52:1. Exodus 3:1-18 and 4:1-17).

95:3 And now, (O Messenger!) This land of security and peace. (Makkah where the Final Revelation has begun. 2:126).

95:4 We have created the human being in the best design. (With the potential to grow his ‘Self’).

95:5 Then We turn him to the lowest of low.

(Whoever rejects Divine Values, reduces himself to a subhuman existence 91:7-10).

95:6 Except those who have chosen to be graced with belief, and work to augment the human potential. And theirs is a reward unending.

95:7 What, then, can make you deny the Divine System of life!

95:8 Is not Allah the Sovereign of the sovereigns, the Wisest of the wise, the Best of all judges? (‘Hukm’ carries all three meanings).

**Surah 96 – Al-‘Alaq – The Zygote**

[Authors’ note] This is the 96th Surah of the Qur'an and it has 19 verses. ‘Alaq’ and ‘Alaqah’ have frequently been translated as ‘clot’, ‘leech-like flesh’, ‘something that clings’, ‘like chewed flesh’ etc. However, ‘Alaq’ also means the Germ cell or the Zygote which is the ovum from the female ovary that has been fertilized by the male sperm. I prefer this last meaning since the Qur’an very scientifically mentions the union of male and female gametes (‘Nutfah’) resulting in the formation of ‘Alaqa’ = The Germ cell or Zygote.

Historical accounts written two hundred years later claim that this was the very first Revelation to the exalted Messenger, but we find this proposition of no practical importance at all. In fact, these fabricated accounts portray a picture of the exalted Messenger having been terrified by his encounter with the Angel Gabriel in the Cave of Hira! Then he comes back home shivering in fright and his wife Khadijah r.a. reassures and covers him with a blanket. Then she takes him to her cousin Waraqa bin Nawfil who was a Christian scholar, and amazingly, he is portrayed as the first one confirming that the exalted Messenger had indeed received a Revelation from God, and yet he himself does not embrace Islam! The story in itself concedes the ‘secret’ that it was fabricated by some Christians long after the era of the Prophet a.s.

I think, THE QUR’AN AS IT EXPLAINS ITSELF reasonably proves that the circumstances of a particular revelation, the when and where of it, carry no importance at all. On the contrary this exercise only attempts to bind the Timeless Qur'an to some events of the past and, in addition to spicing the Revelation with some insults, it seeks to hamper the directness of the Message to us.

The verses of this Surah although addressed to the exalted Messenger, equally apply to all human beings.

Rejecters of the Divine Revelation have been symbolized in this Surah in the form of one man whom the history reports to be Abu Jahl. But the phenomenon is timeless in that while some people simply reject the Truth, others will actively fight against it.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

96:1 Read! With the Name of your Lord Who created.

96:2 Created man from a zygote.

[And passed him through the embryonic stages 23:13-14. Endowed him with perceptual and conceptual faculties 32:7-9. Gave him the free will 76:2-3, 90:8-10. Distinguished him from the rest of the Animal Kingdom 47:12. For a comprehensive overview of man's creation from the very beginning, water and the inorganic matter, and onward please see 22:5]

96:3 Read! For, your Lord is the Most Generous. (He has placed a tremendous blessing in learning and teaching).

96:4 Who has taught the use of the pen.

96:5 Taught man what he knew not.

[The Pen symbolizes the transmission and exchange of knowledge through written records, unique to man. Since this a Divine gift to the mankind, "It is He Who taught."]

96:6 Nay, verily, man tries to play God! ('Tagha' = Being a false god, 'Taghut' = Grossly overweening = Arrogance beyond limits = Creating rebellion = Trespassing Divine Values).

96:7 (And) in that he looks upon himself as self-sufficient. (Forgetting how indebted he is to the Creator and the society for all his mental and physical possessions).

96:8 Behold, unto your Lord is the return.

(Everything that exists goes back to the Creator as its Source and is bound by His Law. All people will be returned to Him for Judgment. Mankind will eventually return to the Divine System of life).

96:9 Have you seen the kind of man who forbids -

96:10 Another servant when he follows the Divine Messages?

96:11 Have you seen that if such a person were on the right road,

96:12 Or his affairs were to lead him to Blissful security,

96:13 Mark out that he, then, would have known that, by thus practically denying the Truth, he is turning away from all that is good?

96:14 Does he not know that Allah sees to it that His Laws are enforced without exception?

96:15 Nay, if such a person desists not, We (Our Law of Requital) will seize him by the forelock (to a state of humiliation 11:56).

96:16 A forelock that is given to denial and committing fault upon fault.

96:17 Let him, then, call upon his advisory council.

96:18 We shall summon the apprehending forces.

96:19 Nay, never be intimidated by a man like this! But submit completely in adoration to Divine Commands, and let every step of yours bring you nearer to your noble Goal.

## Surah 97 – Al-Qadr – The Majesty

[Author's note] This is the 97th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 5 verses. The Night of Majesty is when the Qur'an was revealed through Gabriel on the exalted Messenger's heart in the month of Ramadhan in the year 610 AD. Thereafter, it was revealed to mankind in stages over a period of 23 years. The Qur'an came as the Ultimate Criterion between the Right and the Wrong and ushered in a Splendor that has been spreading on earth during the last 14 centuries. (2:87-97, 2:185, 9:32-33, 14:1, 16:2, 17:85-86, 26:193, 42:52, 44:1-4, 70:4, 78:38, 81:17-19).

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

97:1 Behold, We have revealed it in the Night of Majesty.

97:2 Ah, what will enlighten you what it is, the Night of Majesty!

97:3 The Night of Majesty is better than a thousand months. (A day of enlightenment is better than a life-time of ignorance).

97:4 The Universal forces and the Divine Revelation have descended therein, by their Lord's Leave and shall work in concert with every Decree to carry out His plan.

97:5 Peace! It is a Message of Peace, and inevitably shall dawn a new Morning of Enlightenment (39:69).

## Surah 98 – Al-Bayyinah – The Clear Evidence

[Author's note] This is the 98th Surah and it has 8 verses. The people who were endowed with previous Scriptures, and the idolaters do need to reflect on the Final Revelation, Al-Qur'an in order to see the Light and walk the right Path.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

98:1 It is inconceivable that those who are denying the Truth, whether they are among the People of the Scripture or the idolaters, could depart from their ways till the Clear Evidence reaches them. (The Qur'an liberates them from the shackles of their man-made dogmas and brings them from darkness to Light 7:157).

98:2 A Messenger of Allah conveying to them the Purified Scrolls. (That are well-scored and well-written on parchment by honored scribes 52:2-3, 80:13-16).

98:3 Wherein are Authoritative Scriptures.

98:4 Now the People of the Scripture had divided among themselves even when the Evidence of Truth had already come to them.

98:5 And they were commanded no more than to serve Allah, keeping religion pure for Him - turning away from all that is false, as men of reason upright. And to establish the Divine System, and set up the Just Economic Order of Zakat. For, that is the Perfect System of Life.

98:6 Verily, those who are bent on denying the Truth, be they among the People of the Scripture or the idol worshipers under any guise, will abide in Hell. They (who see the Truth and then deny it) are the worst of all created beings.

98:7 And behold, those who have chosen to be graced with belief, and do works that help others - it is they, they who are the best of all created beings.

98:8 Their reward is with their Lord - Gardens of Eden (of perpetual Bliss) underneath which rivers flow - to abide therein forever. Well-pleased is Allah with them and well-pleased are they with Him. All this awaits him who fears his Lord. (Knowing that his Lord's Law of Requital is a rock solid reality, he understands that all actions have their built-in recompense).

## Surah 99 – Az-Zilzal – The Earthquake

[Author's note] This is the 99th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 8 verses. As mentioned earlier, many of the verses and especially the last several Surahs of the Qur'an relate to the life of the world as well as to the Hereafter, and similarly to Revolutions in the world and to the Great Cosmic Metamorphosis (Apocalypse).

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

99:1 When the earth is shaken with her mighty quaking. (A mighty Revolution will overtake the world).

99:2 And the earth yields up her burdens. (Archaeology and mining will make long strides. The heavy tyrants will be thrown out of power).

99:3 And mankind cries out, "What has happened to her?" (People will be stunned at the speed of unfolding events).

99:4 At that time she will relate her stories. (History of benevolent revolutions will repeat itself on a massive scale).

99:5 For your Lord will have sent His Command to her. (Progressive unfolding of the Divine Decree).

99:6 On that Day will all people come forth as separate entities, to be shown their deeds. (The guilty will stand apart from the innocent. 36:59).

99:7 Then whoever has done an atom's weight of good, will see it.

99:8 And whoever has done an atom's weight of evil, will see it. (The Justice system will improve on earth. And, finally, the Day of Judgment will deliver the Divine Justice).

**Surah 100 – Al-‘Adiyat – The Gallopers**

[Author’s note] This is the 100th Surah of the Qur'an. It has 11 verses. With spellbinding eloquence the Qur’an hereby very forcefully condemns all kind of looting, plunder and raids. Armed robberies have been a scourge of humanity since times immemorial.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

100:1 Oh, the panting galloping horses of the raiders.

100:2 Sparks of fire striking (with their gallops).

100:3 Charging, ambushing at dawn.

100:4 Therewith raising clouds of dust.

100:5 Storming into any community.

100:6 Behold, man is so ungrateful to his Lord! (Robbing the fruit of others' labor).

100:7 And behold, he is a witness unto that.

100:8 And behold, in the love of wealth he is ardent. (102:1-2).

100:9 Knows he not that all hidden things will be dug out? (Intentions, actions and material things that were robbed, and the disintegrated forms resurrected).

100:10 And the secrets of the hearts will be laid bare.

100:11 (They will find out) on that Day - their Lord is fully Aware of them.

**Surah 101 – Al-Qari’ah – The Catastrophe**

[Author’s note] This is the 101st Surah of the Qur'an. It has 11 verses. This Surah briefly portrays the eventual Great Transformation of the current Cosmology and the Resurrection.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

101:1 The Catastrophe!

101:2 What is the Catastrophe?

101:3 Ah, What will convey to you what it is, the Catastrophe!

101:4 The Day when people will be like moths scattered in confusion.

101:5 And the mountains will be like flakes of wool.

101:6 And then, he whose scales are heavy (with good deeds),

101:7 Will live in happiness and contentment.

101:8 But as of him whose scales are light,

101:9 He will be embraced by an Abyss.

101:10 Ah, what will convey to you what that is!

101:11 Raging Fire!

[The Qur'an describes Hellfire and Paradise in metaphors and allegories which lie within the physical means of our understanding. While the body dies, the 'Self' lives on and its destiny, whether Anguish or Bliss, is a logical consequence and a built-in recompense of its doings.

A 'Self' which has primed itself by leading a benevolent life on earth belongs to Paradise. Its development goes on in the Hereafter in a state of Blissful Immortality. Whereas a 'Self' which has stunted itself by succumbing to selfish desire, fails to prime itself for ongoing development. It merely survives in the 'Hell' of Anguish as opposed to the Blissful Immortality of Paradise.

So, all that the Qur'an describes about Hell and Paradise is to be dispensed in ways the nature of which we can understand to some extent, to say briefly, as follows:

PARADISE: Men, women and children are brought into a new being in amazingly higher physical and mental forms. Aging, pain, illness, death, grief, fear, fatigue, negative emotions have no place in that Blissful Realm. It is perpetual Delight with ongoing growth of the personality. The new human forms have intensely advanced capacities to do things they want, even see a replay of their earthly lives and the entire world history. They instantly get all they desire, and more! They get to meet with their families and friends and any personalities that lived before or after them. They are provided all they need and want without the least bit of toil.

HELLFIRE: A life where the resurrected humans in new higher physical and mental forms have a life of Anguish. They are in a state of neither living nor dying since there is no progress of their personalities except that they see the Truth more clearly. The Insurmountable Barrier keeps them from advancing. They are in a relentless state of Regret that they should have done works to be worthy of Paradise.

Hence, the understanding we get of the life of Paradise and Hellfire, although described metaphorically in the Qur'an, is sufficiently clear, and not all that beyond our current imagination as many commentators so humbly state.

The following verses are only a few among those which will support my humble submission:

2:119, 3:11, 3:132, 5:86, 8:36, 9:49, 13:35, 18:100, 26:91, 29:55, 32:13-17, 35:36, 36:53-67, 36:78-79, 47:15, 57:21, 74:30, 78:26.]

**Surah 102 – At-Takathur – The Relentless Greed**

[Author’s note] This is the 102nd Surah and it has 8 verses. ‘Takathur’ indicates the greed of amassing more and more wealth and material possessions, the mutual rivalry and show-off therewith, and racing for ‘things’ rather than virtue.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

102:1 The relentless greed of material gains distracts you (from the real purpose of life). (57:20, 83:26).

102:2 Until you go down to your graves.

102:3 Nay! But you will come to know!

102:4 Again, Nay! You will come to know.

102:5 Nay, only if you could have certain knowledge.

102:6 You would see it now, the Insurmountable Barrier (in the way of your personal development 29:54, 79:36, 82:16).

102:7 Finally, you will behold it with sure vision.

102:8 And, then, on that Day you will be questioned what you did with the boon of life. (21:13).

**Surah 103 – Al-‘Asr – Time That Flies**

[Author’s note] This 103rd Surah is one of the two shortest ones in the Qur’an. Like Surah Al-Kauthar (108) it has only three verses. But the Message here is no less profound.

AL-'ASR denotes “Time that flies” as different from DAHR (Surah 76) which denotes “Time through ages”.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

103:1 Time that flies and has flown, bears witness.

103:2 That man is, and has been, in a state of loss.

103:3 Except those who have chosen to be graced with belief, do works that help others and exemplify Truth and exemplify perseverance.

[Individuals and nations that are exception to the Rule of mankind being in a state of loss, have four qualities.

a. They believe in the Divine Laws operative in Nature, and not that things happen around them haphazardly. In other words they are pragmatic people.

b. They do works of collective good, helping those who lag behind and augmenting the individual and collective potentials of humanity.

c. They uphold Al-HAQQ, the Truth instead of hearsay and conjecture. They refrain from violating HAQQ, the human rights which is always the first casualty of an order based upon Falsehood.

d. They know that the benefit of the individual and the benefit of the society are strongly interwoven. Therefore, they are patient in times of ease and prosperity by not falling for rivalry in material possessions. And they are steadfast in times of adversity, natural disasters and armed confrontation.]

**Surah 104 – Al-Humazah – The Slanderer**

[Author's note] This is the 104th Surah and it has 9 verses. Slander, fault-finding, backbiting, criticizing, is a full-time job. Born out of envy, idleness, malice and rationalized self-interest, this is a negative indulgence in itself that leaves no room for working any goodness.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

104:1 Woe unto every slanderer, fault-finder! (He himself does little but spends a lot of energy detracting the doers).

104:2 Whose efforts revolve around gathering material possessions and keep counting them. (Devoid of a higher goal, he opposes any semblance of reform 70:18).

104:3 Thinking as if his wealth will help him for forever!

104:4 Nay, he will be flung into the Shredder. (9:35).

104:5 Ah, what will convey to you what the Shredder is?

104:6 A Fire kindled by Allah.

104:7 Which originates in the hearts. (And engulfs the hearts).

104:8 Verily, it closes upon them. (As they had kept their possessions closed in safes and vaults, and kept all kindness surrounded in the flames of jealousy).

104:9 In extended columns.

**Surah 105 – Al-Fil – The Elephant**

[Author's Note] Good panning and timely action can ward off a strong invasion.

This brief Surah has a very interesting history behind it. As we have seen in the history of the Empire of Sheba (Surahs An-Naml 27, Saba 34, and Qaaf 50), the Kingdom of Sheba had collapsed in 115 B.C. They were overtaken by the Himairis who ruled until 300 C.E. when other tribes overtook the control of Yemen. They were in turn defeated by the Christian Kingdom of Ethipoia-Abyssinia when they invaded Yemen in 525 C.E. Abrahah was then appointed Viceroy of Yemen.

The Roman and the Abyssinian Christians longed for converting the idolaters of Arabia to Christianity. They also sought control of the trade routes between Arabia, Persia and the Western Roman Empire. They saw Ka'bah in Makkah as a hindrance to their imperialistic and religious designs. Abrahah, the Viceroy of Yemen made a smart move. Between 550 and 555 C.E. he built a gorgeous cathedral EKKLESIA in San'aa, Yemen, and invited people and neighboring nations to come for pilgrimage there instead of going to Makkah. When Ekklesia remained unpopular, Abrahah decided to invade Makkah and demolish the Ka'bah.

Since he correctly anticipated the presence of hostile tribes en-route, he came up with a 60,000 strong army aided by thousands of horses, camels and thirteen elephants.

I agree with the research of Hamiduddin Farahi, Amin Ahsan Islahi and G.A.Parwez on what eventually happened. As Abrahah's army approached Makkah, the Makkans who had been alerted by some travelers beforehand, saw flocks of birds that normally fly over caravans in search for food. The Makkans mounted the hills around and threw stones on the troops. The elephants, and in turn, other rides panicked and trampled the soldiers. This incident took place in 570 C.E. when the exalted Messenger was born. The event carried such significance that the Arabs, in their Calendar, marked it as the "Year of the Elephant" ('Aam-il-Fil) as a point of reference in history.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

105:1 Are you not aware of how your Lord dealt with the Army of the Elephant?

105:2 Did He not bring their strategy to utter failure?

105:3 And sent upon them swarms of flying creatures.

105:4 Then you showered them with hard stones earmarked with requital. ('Sijjil' = Inscribed = Marked out).

105:5 And made them like a field of grain eaten down to stubble.

[An interesting footnote here might be appropriate. Three Arabs had guided Abrahah on his way to Makkah through the desert. The pre-Islamic Makkans humiliated the traitors and made out three statutes of them in today's plains of Mina outside Makkah. Then they used to stone those statues every year at the time of Pilgrimage. This ritual was 'Islamized' by Muslim historians naming them as three places where the 'Satan' tried to prompt Prophet Abraham to defy God's Command to 'sacrifice' his son. And so, to this day during Pilgrimage, Muslims stone the three pillars calling them the Great, the Medium, and the Small Satan!]

**Surah 106 – Quraish – The Tribe of Quraish**

This Surah has just four yet highly eloquent verses. Being honored by the servants of Allah is a great Blessing that can best be returned by serving Him. And the way to serve Him is to serve His creation.

Quraish were the most prominent tribe in all Arabia for being the custodians of the Holy Shrine of Ka'bah in Makkah. They were honored by all the tribes, and their caravans remained secure from raids which were otherwise a common occurrence. Makkah itself was a bustling trade center in the middle of some great caravan routes. It was known as the Town of Peace and security even before the call to Islam by the exalted Prophet who was born in that tribe and Town in 570 C.E.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

106:1 For the privilege (of security) cherished by Quraish.

106:2 Enjoying their winter and summer caravans. (To Yemen and Syria respectively, that makes them affluent).

106:3 It infers, then, that they ought to serve the Lord of this House alone. (2:125-126).

106:4 Who has given them freedom from want, and has made them secure against fear. ('Ta'm' = Feeding = Taking care = Fulfilling needs = Freeing from want).

**Surah 107 – Al-Ma'un – The Spring of Sustenance**

This Surah most vividly distinguishes Salat as a Collective System closely tied to social welfare, from the empty individual ritualism. Al-Ma'un is frequently but erroneously translated as 'assistance', 'small kindness', 'charity', neighborly needs' etc. Linguistically, and in the context it means, "The Spring of Sustenance."

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

107:1 Have you seen him who proclaims allegiance to the Divine System, but denies it in action? (53:33, 75:32-33, 95:7. 'Takzeeb' = Denying in action).

107:2 Behold, that is he who repels the orphan, the widow, the helpless, the one in a lonely state. (89:10, 69:34).

107:3 And urges not the feeding of the needy. And participates not in helping those who have lost their jobs, whose businesses have stalled, and whose hard earned income is insufficient to meet their basic needs.

107:4 Ah, woe unto the praying ones!

107:5 They know not what their prayer is meant to be!

107:6 They only want to be seen and praised. (9:54).

107:7 And, with all this, they put dams before the Spring of Sustenance. ('Ma'n' = Running water. 'Mu'in' = Source of sustenance with plenty of fresh water springs. 23:50).

**Surah 108 – Al-Kauthar – The Abundant Good**

Author’s note: This Surah, along with 103, Al-‘Asr, is the shortest Chapter of the Qur’an with only three, yet profound, verses in it. Most commentators, impressed by traditions, think that these verses are addressed to the exalted Prophet alone. This practice is an obvious disservice to the Sublime and Timeless Message of the Qur’an which is a Guidance and Light for all humanity. Not to mention is a heap of conjecture portraying Al-Kauthar as a stream up there in the heavens.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

108:1 Behold, We have bestowed upon you Abundant Good.

(The ever flowing stream of Wisdom and Knowledge in this Qur’an 13:35, 14:24-25).

108:2 Therefore, follow the Commands of your Lord and convey them to others so that they might follow as well. And sacrifice your comfort for the welfare of the community.

(‘Sall’ = Follow closely. ‘Nahr’ = Sacrifice = Sacrificing a camel = Sacrificing one’s own comfort and resources for a noble cause).

108:3 Verily, it is your opponent that will be cutting himself off from the Abundant Good.

**Surah 109 – Al-Kafirun – Those Who Deny the Truth**

Author’s note: In six brief verses this Surah expounds an Eternal Law. The Noble Ideology given to all humanity by the Lord of the Worlds, the Lord of all mankind is absolutely non-negotiable. The word ‘Ibadah’ and its derivatives used in this little Surah must be understood in their most elegant and intensive meanings. ‘Ibadah’ is usually and correctly translated as worship, service or obedience. ‘Ma’bud’ is usually and correctly rendered as something or someone who is worshiped, served or obeyed. The proper understanding of this glorious Surah requires us to think of these terms in a much wider spectrum.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and the Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

109:1 Say, “O You who deny the Truth, and, thus, by remaining ungrateful to the Creator’s Ultimate Guidance, choose to live in darkness!

109:2 I do not worship that which you worship.

(Neither your idols, nor your tenets, nor your moral values, way of life, nor your holy men or leaders).

109:3 Nor do you worship that which I worship.

(You do not subscribe to my Divinely revealed Ideology and System of life).

109:4 And I will never worship that which you have ever worshiped.

109:5 Nor (unless you see the Light) will you worship that which I worship.

(Our ways are apart and there is no room for compromise. Falsehood remains falsehood even though it may compromise, but the Truth cannot remain the Truth if it is mixed up with falsehood).

109:6 Unto you your way, and unto me my Way."

(Results will tell who is on the right track. 6:136, 10:41, 15:85, 42:15, 60:4, 73:10).

**Surah 110 – An-Nasr – The Help**

Author's note: Traditional commentaries, in this instance, show us Allah admonishing the exalted Messenger, after completing His Noble mission, to relax, sit down on a prayer-rug, hold on to a rosary bead, hym His praises and ask forgiveness for his sins! All this is the consequence of disregarding the original Qur'anic meanings, the Big Picture of the Qur'an, and succumbing to unfounded traditions.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of All Mercy and Kindness.

110:1 When comes Allah's Help and the Victory.

110:2 And you see the people enter Allah's Religion in throngs. (19:96).

110:3 (Think not that your job is done). Then strive hard to make the Divine System a living witness to the Glory and Praise of your Lord. And you shall remain vigilant to guard the System as a helmet guards the head. Behold, He is ever Responsive to your efforts. (94:7-8).

**Surah 111 – Al-Lahab – The Flame**

Here is the solitary instance where an opponent of the exalted Prophet is mentioned in the Qur'an by name. Perhaps because he symbolized leadership, power, tyranny, wealth and priesthood all in one.

Historically, Abi-Lahab was an inoffensive KUNIYAH (nick name) of Abd-al-Uzza, a paternal uncle of the exalted Prophet. He was a very good looking man with a glowing face and a fiery temper, hence known as Abu Lahab, 'Father of Flame'. Unfortunately for them, he and his wife Arwa Umm-

Jamil bint Harb bin Umayyah (who was a sister of Abu Sufyan) took a very hostile stance against Islam and the exalted Prophet and persecuted him in Makkah. They were the next door neighbors to him.

Arwa used to spread out thorny branches at the exalted Messenger's door by night, and ran a defamation campaign against him. She had a most beautiful and expensive necklace that she always was proud of. The ornament of palm-fiber in her neck probably has a subtle allusion to that in the Surah.

Abi Lahab was the chief priest of the holy Shrine of Ka'bah which at that time hosted 360 idols. He was a wealthy and arrogant man, therefore, he could foresee that Allah's Message of human equality threatened his high status and special interests. In short, he was a Symbol of Opposition to the Divine Message.

The Surah has also been titled by historians as "Tabbat" and "Al-Masad". I have tried after due to research to stay with the titles of the Surahs as they were in the sacred lifetime of Muhammad Sall-Allahu-'alayehi-wa-Sallam.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

111:1 Perished is the power of Abi Lahab, and perished is he!

111:2 His wealth and gains will avail him not! (69:27-28, 92:11, 96:7).

111:3 He shall have to endure a fire blazing, glowing.

111:4 And his wife, that carrier of slanderous tales, the firewood hauler.

111:5 Will have her neck ornamented with a rope of palm-fiber. (17:13. 'Jeed' = A neck decorated with an ornament).

[Here, we have a lesson that blood relationship, wealth, status and position have no bearing before the Divine Law. The most honored in the Sight of Allah is he who is best in conduct 49:13.]

## Surah 112 – Al-Ikhlas – The Pure Monotheism

Author's note: This a very brief Surah that very forcefully and clearly expounds strict Monotheism, nothing confusing about it as Trinity, Dualism or any shade of Polytheism.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

112:1 Say, "He is Allah, the One!

(He is Unique in His Essence and Attributes and He alone is the Sovereign Law-Giver in the Universe).

112:2 Allah is Absolute, Eternal, Unique, Self-Sufficient, Perfect, Independent, the Uncaused Cause of all that exists, Besought of all .

112:3 He begets not, nor is He begotten.

112:4 And there is none that could be comparable unto Him."

**Surah 113 – Al-Falaq – The Rising Dawn**

The last two Surahs of the Qur'an have unfortunately been given the name of MUAWWIZATAIN by the so-called "authorities", conveying to the reader that they are supposed to guard us against "occult powers" such as magic, evil-eye, witchcraft, demons, jealousy, the 'unseen beings' omens and amulets etc.

The most pragmatic Book on earth, the Qur'an, strongly negates the real existence of witchcraft, black magic, soothsaying, astrology, palm-reading, psychic prowess of telling the future, crystal balls, fortune-telling, clairvoyance, and all superstition - reiterating again and again that the entire Universe is being run by Divine Laws. We may call these as Allah's Physical Laws in the Universe, and according to the Book of Allah these Laws never change.

The exalted Messenger is also reported to have said that there is no such thing as Ghoul (Occult creature like demons and Dracula's, evil spirits, wicked witches etc). He is also reported to have said that the supposed act of NASHARAH (the pretense of expelling the demons from the human body) is a deceptive Satanic act.

It is, then, amazing that Muslim scholars and the commoners who revere Hadith, conveniently ignore such reported sayings of the exalted Messenger when they conflict with their preconceived notions and embrace those reports that clearly contradict the Book of Allah but are in line with their erroneous whims!

Let us not reduce the Glorious Revelations of Allah to the irrational propositions of people, however big their names might be.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

113:1 Say, "I seek refuge with the Lord of the Rising Dawn.

113:2 From the evil aspects of created things.

113:3 And from the evils of the darkness of Ignorance whenever and wherever it is encountered.

113:4 And from the covert activities of people trying to blow knots into the simple (Guidance of the Qur'an).

113:5 And from the evil of the envious when he envies (and tries to harm)."

**Surah 114 – An-Nas – Mankind**

It is refreshing and heart warming to note that the Book of Allah begins by calling Him, “Lord of the Worlds” and ends by calling Him, “Lord of Mankind.” The Creator of all is One, therefore, mankind must be one community.

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

114:1 Say, "I seek refuge with the Lord of Mankind.

114:2 The King of mankind.

114:3 The God of mankind.

114:4 From the evil of the whispering elusive tempter, the covert desire.

114:5 That whispers in the hearts of people.

114:6 (And) from the hidden psyche that rationalizes the evil, as well as the temptations that come from people."